



FAIRMILE VERGES POLICY

Henley-on-Thames Town Council is the owner of the grass verges that flank the majority of the Fairmile and it is recognised that this area is an historic entrance to the town that has remained virtually free of major developments. It is a prized asset within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with the A4130 being one of the main entrances from Oxford to the Town providing an all-important first impression.

The Town Council has agreed that the unique and special nature of the Fairmile entrance to Henley is of high value to the town and its residents and as such, its look and feel should be preserved. Any potential changes must therefore be in keeping with and sympathetic to its special nature.

The following policy covers the main issues associated with the Fairmile Verges:

Additional accesses

- Requests for additional access points directly onto the Fairmile (either from the access roads or directly from a property) will be refused. [This recommendation does not cover the development site approved in the JHHNP which has already received Council's approval in principle.]
- Requests for additional access points onto the Restricted By-way or access road from individual properties will be considered individually on their merits. If it can be shown that the access does not visually impair the view, would not facilitate additional development and the proposed route is not detrimental to the tree stock, then approval may be given subject to an easement/lease restricting its use. The Council will commission an independent valuation (the cost of which is re-charged to the applicant) to determine the value of the access. All subsequent legal fees incurred by the Council to be met by the applicant.
- Requests to create additional access roads will be refused.

Building works

- The Council will impose a weekly charge for storage of materials and/or placement of skips on the verge in areas where the Council determines no damage is likely to occur and contractors cannot use the property where work is being carried out. If the area is considered more sensitive, then the householder/contractor will be refused permission and to remove any items already on site.

Signs

- Permission for the erection of A-boards and signs (other than those having a statutory requirement) will continue to be refused.

Potholes

- Potholes (on the restricted by-way and access roads). Residents will be allowed to repair pot-holes outside their properties subject to the approval of the Council's Parks Service as to materials and of OCC Highways if applicable.

Parking

- The Council will continue to monitor parking. Parking will not be allowed on the verges (without express permission from the Council) and work will continue to provide designated areas for parking and physical barriers (posts) to protect the grass verges.
- Parking of vehicles being advertised for sale will not be allowed under any circumstances and arrangements will be made for their removal (the cost of which will be re-charged to the owner).

Approved by Full Council: 6 November 2018