



Great Barton Parish Council – Rationale for Undertaking Works

Parish Council Rationale for Undertaking Hedge Flailing on the A143 (0.1377m)

1. Purpose of the Work

The Parish Council proposes to undertake hedge-flailing along the A143 verge Diomed Drive footpath to Eastbury.

The purpose of the work is to:

- Maintain safe pedestrian access along the verge edge
- Prevent further encroachment onto the highway
- Respond to repeated resident concerns regarding narrowing
- Maintain the amenity and appearance of this key gateway into the village

2. Why SCC Would Normally Undertake This Work

This hedge line falls within the Suffolk County Council Highways maintenance remit, as it forms part of the A143 highway verge.

SCC has advised:

- The hedge is not currently scheduled for routine flailing
- It does not meet the threshold for a safety defect under their current criteria [Ref 76948](#)

3. Rationale for Parish Council Intervention

The Parish Council considers it necessary and proportionate to undertake the work because:

- **Amenity:** The overgrowth creates an untidy and neglected appearance at a prominent entrance to Great Barton.
- **Responsiveness:** Multiple residents have raised concerns, and delaying action would cause ongoing inconvenience and potential risk.
- **Practicality:** SCC has confirmed no imminent action, and the hedge will continue to worsen if left untreated.
- **Public Benefit:** The work supports safe access, improves the village environment, and prevents further deterioration that would require more extensive work later.

This intervention is therefore justified as a one-off, targeted action to maintain local standards where SCC is unable to act within a reasonable timeframe.

4. Legal & Governance Considerations

Before approving the work, the Parish Council has confirmed:

- The hedge is part of the highway verge
- The work will not alter the highway, only restore existing width and visibility.
- The contractor engaged is suitably insured, competent, and familiar with highway-adjacent work.
- The Parish Council is acting under its General Power of Competence
- This action is not a precedent for routine SCC responsibilities; it is a specific response to an unresolved issue.

5. Cost & Value for Money

- Estimated cost: £175
- Contractor: TBS
- The Parish Council considers the cost proportionate to the safety and amenity benefits and preferable to leaving the issue unresolved.

6. Decision

The Parish Council resolves to approve the hedge-flailing work on the basis that:

- It is necessary for safety and visibility at Diomed Drive Footpath A143.
- SCC is unable to undertake the work within a reasonable timeframe.
- The Parish Council has the legal power to act.
- The action is in the public interest and represents good stewardship of the parish environment.