

West Itchenor Parish Council
Policy for Management and Maintenance of Shipton Green Common

Objectives

The overall objective is to maintain the Common as a pleasing open space for those residents who live adjacent to it and for the wider village community.

- Specifically:
1. To prevent any obstructions which might impede free access to all parts of the Common
 2. To prevent encroachment into the open space of the Common from adjacent properties and/or the highway
 3. To maintain the grass, trees and bushes
 4. To keep the area litter free as far as is reasonably possible

Guidelines

Without diminishing the generality of the above objectives, the following guidelines are given to assist in their interpretation.

1. Vehicles should not be parked on the Common, but within the boundaries of adjacent properties
2. No buildings, sheds or fencing should be erected on the Common
3. There should be no planting on the Common, without prior consultation with the Parish Council
4. There should be no ditching or other works without prior consultation with the Parish Council
5. Rubbish may not be dumped
6. Bushes and trees on adjacent properties should be kept trimmed to avoid encroachment on Common land
7. The surface of any access across the grassland of the Common should be of shingle or stone and any kerb or edging should be as unobtrusive as possible.
8. There should be no attempt to create any kind of enclosure through which people cannot pass freely
9. House signage should be within or very close to property boundaries and be of modest size, whilst being legible from the road. Similarly, Estate Agent signs or advertising signs should be within property boundaries, not placed on the Common.

Application

During any building works contractors' vehicles, building materials and skips must be kept within the boundary of the property concerned. Where this is not practical the resident may seek the agreement of the Parish Council for use of a limited area of the Common for a limited time. Suitable precautions must be taken to protect members of the public from any hazards.

However, causing an obstruction by parking on common land is subject to the laws of the land and any resident so doing is putting themselves at risk of challenge from many sources, not least the Open Spaces Society.

For many years grass cutting and general maintenance has been carried out by residents for the areas immediately in front of their houses and by the Parish Council for other areas, particularly on the other side of the road. It is our wish that this co-operation will continue. The Parish Council will however take on the responsibility where a resident is unable to do so for any reason, perhaps especially during the process of a property sale.