

QUESTION NO. 1

Peter Bloxam to ask the Chair:

Preventing Motorists from driving on Grass Verges

What are permitted methods for preventing motorists from driving on grass verges for a period long enough for grass to recover ? The grass between properties and public road in Woodcote Way (in front of properties 9 through 17 in particular) is all but gone and the verge is becoming a very unattractive "dusty trough". For example, would it be permitted to use flexible poles and "hi vis" tape of some sort for example (any vehicle hitting it would not be damaged) ?

REPLY by the Chair:

Sadly this type of damage to grass verges occurs at many locations across Reading and we do not have the resources to respond to every request to protect the grass.

Historically we have used wooden posts that have been popular but they limit access for grass cutting and become a maintenance liability over time.

With continued government funding cuts imposed on local councils we can no longer afford to protect verges in this way.

In two areas of Reading we have promoted a verge parking ban that has improved the condition of the grass in most cases. These schemes cover relatively wide areas incorporating a number of streets to ensure they are make the best use of enforcement resources. Smaller more focused problems such as this within Woodcote Way are much more challenging for us, as the council, to deal with.

It may be a case that residents consider how they can help. One idea may be to ask neighbours to park their cars on the side of the road with the damaged verge whilst the grass recovers.

I thank Peter Bloxam for his question