

Subject: Shooting Field verge by St Andrews Church, Steyning

Briefing Note

Item 6.12

Community initiative to 'Green' some Steyning verges

Please see the email below which provides an update on this item that was last discussed by this committee in September of last year. I'll update with more at the meeting.

See picture of verge for reference below.



From: [REDACTED] **Sent:** 04 March 2022 18:52

To: John Fullbrook <john.fullbrook@steyningpc.gov.uk> **Subject:** Shooting Field verge by St Andrews Church, Steyning

Good evening John,

Further to our communication last year, we contacted WSCC about the verge in question. They confirmed that spot cutting around benches and bins would still be undertaken should the verge become a community road verge.

To answer your question about sight lines we added the verge to the list for consideration by WSCC who, in the process of approving, or denying, applications undertook site visits to all verges to determine suitability and safety issues - as is their remit. I can now confirm that they have approved this verge for the project. For this verge this means that, apart from a regular spot cutting, it would only be cut once (cut number 4) in late summer. After this, the cuttings would be removed by Greening Steyning volunteers (for which we have public liabilities insurance).

This does mean it is now on the list but please rest assured it can be removed should the parish council have an objection to the project. We simply had to go through the process to ensure we had confirmation from WSCC that they were satisfied with any safety concerns.

I cannot sadly give you a mock up of what the verge will look like, as until we start the process and undertake a vegetation survey we will not know what wildflowers will thrive there, but I have found a few images from Dorset (who have been running a similar scheme for a number of years) which I hope will illustrate which it could look like, after a few years.

Should any significant complaints or issues arise, or the parish council wish the project to be reconsidered we can contact WSCC at any time and should the grass get too long please do contact us so that we can arrange for an interim cut to be done ASAP (we will also be keeping an eye on this).

To ensure that it is clear to the local residents that this is a managed process (not neglect) signage will be put up on the verge shortly.

It would be great if we could perhaps plan a time for a call to discuss this further or if you could give us an idea about the next steps for the parish council, I would be most grateful.

Any questions or any more information you would like from Greening Steyning please do let me know and we would be happy to provide it.

All the best,

[REDACTED]