

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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LAND OCCUPIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL (VILLAGE GREENS)

1. The need for Notes of Guidance

Any decisions affecting Parish Council occupied land must recognise the rights of Commoners, Inhabitants and Visitors when Parish Council guidance is sought for permanent or temporary change of use of this land. It is considered essential that such decisions are consistent and balanced, recognising the needs of working villages and the general desire to maintain their attractive appearance.

2. Land occupied by the Parish Council

This land comprises:

- a. The village greens of Murton and Hilton were registered under the Commons Registration Act 1965 as Register Unit VG7 and VG8 respectively. Several Commoners have Common Rights for the grazing of sheep/and or horses. Inhabitants of Murton and Hilton also have a right of 'exercise and recreation' on these Village Greens (Commons Registration Act 1965 Section 22(1)).
- b. Other wastelands of the manor within the Parish not registered as Village Greens and not subject to Common Rights, but which are occupied by the Parish Council.

3. Detailed Guidance

These paragraphs cover specific areas of concern:

3.1 Parking on Village Greens and Wastelands

Parking on Village Greens and Wastelands, within 15 yards of a public road, would not be objected to by the Parish Council provided that:

- a. It is impracticable to park the vehicle on the resident's own property.
- b. Parish Council guidance has been sought in the case of regular overnight parking.
- c. The vehicle causes no obstruction and damage to the land surface is minimised.

Overnight parking in tents and caravans is NOT PERMITTED without consulting the Parish Council.

3.2 Storage of materials on Village Greens and Wastelands

Storage of materials on Village Greens and Wastelands would not be objected to by the Parish Council as a SHORT TERM expedient only, ie a few hours. It must not cause an obstruction or damage the land surface. The Parish Council should be approached for longer term storage.

3.3 Damage to Village Greens and Wastelands

Includes spillage of damaging materials and liquids. The lighting of bonfires on Village Greens and Wastelands is not permitted, except in the case of Bonfire Night fires, at the traditional sites in Murton and Hilton. It is expected that Bonfire Night organisers will ensure that the site is cleared of debris as soon as it is practicable after the event.

3.4 Driveways across Village Greens and Wastelands

The establishment of permanent driveways across Village Greens and Wastelands must be authorised in writing by the Parish Council who will ensure that:

- a. There is no alternative access available.
- b. The Commoners have no objections to the proposal.
- c. The route is chosen to minimise damage, to have minimal effect on Common Rights and the appearance of the Greens.
- d. Any arrangement is consistent with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Parish Council must be consulted about the type of driveway surface to be used.

3.5 Grass Cutting

The regular mowing of grass on Village Greens in front of resident's property requires the formal approval of the appropriate Commoners' meeting, since it affects grazing rights.

Subject to this proviso the Parish Council would not object in principle to the mowing of grass on Parish Council occupied land.

4. General

The Parish Council is prepared to amend this guidance in the light of experience. Parishioners and visitors are encouraged to propose changes via any Parish Councillor or by writing to the Clerk.