

Protecting Grass Verges - Parking

Introduction

Parking on grass verges is a persistent problem across Congleton. Parking on the verges can reduce the verge to an unsightly state and obstruct the highway, preventing pedestrians and wheelchair users from accessing roads and footways if there is no other pathway. Verge parking can also cause a hazard to other motorists especially if the vehicle is parked on a bend, narrow road or junction. Congleton Town Council does not promote or support parking on grass verges.

Protection

Prohibition signing and posts

Signs can be placed advising the public not to park on grass verges. These signs can either be installed on their own or alongside timber posts. This can be done if found to be a reasonable request by Congleton Town Council

Grass cutting

Drivers parking on a grass verge can prevent grass cutting from taking place both underneath the vehicle and around it. Verge protection methods such as posts prevent a driven lawn mower from cutting the verge. Strimmers can be used instead, however this is a more time consuming and costly way of grass cutting. Therefore posts and signs are only installed where there is a persistent parking problem.

Diverting the problem

Verge protection measures can divert the parking problem onto another area. There is often little that can be done about this although care must be taken to ensure that any measures are equitable.

Illegal Items placed on verge

Some residents may take their own measures to prevent parking (often plant-pot shaped concrete blocks or large rocks). Although these can be aesthetically pleasing, it is an offence to place unlawful items on the public highway. If seen or reported, Congleton Town Council and Cheshire East Highways have the right to request that the items are removed. Failing this, we can have the items removed.

Waiting Restrictions

Waiting restrictions apply to the entire width of the public highway from the centre of the road to the boundary on the same side of the road. Parking on a verge adjacent to a carriageway where a waiting restriction applies could result in a driver being issued parking ticket even though their vehicle is not encroaching onto any waiting restriction road markings.

Large Goods Vehicles

Goods vehicles weighing 7.5 tonnes or over are prohibited from parking on grass verges, and Civil Enforcement Officers can issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to offending vehicles.

Good Practice

All timber posts should include either a reflective band or individual reflectors near the top of the post. If red and white reflectors are used then the red reflector should face on-coming traffic. Timber posts should be installed with a visible height of no less than 600mm. Timber posts should be installed with spacing between 1.5m and 3m.

Damaged verges should be re-seeded when protection measures are installed.

As resources for enforcement are limited, posts should be considered as an addition to any prohibition signing. Whilst posts will physically prevent parking, prohibition signing will help alert offending motorists.

Prohibition signing should be installed on existing lamp columns and posts where possible to prevent clutter.

Where new posts are required for prohibition signing they should be 1.5m in height. Having a reduced post height keeps environmental intrusion to a minimum and creates a better visual balance between signs and posts.

As trees require a greater amount of spacing than timber posts, they can often be ineffective as a verge protection measure until they begin to grow. Therefore, timber posts should be considered as an addition to tree planting.

Verges with the greatest extent of parking damage should be given priority

Report a problem

If you have further queries which have not been answered on this page, please contact us using our online form: <http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/contact-us/>

If you see a vehicle parking on a grass verge and then leaves the site in a mess, whether that churn up grass, ruts of turf, damage to the kerb etc., please contact Congleton Town Council with the details – either via the on-line form or ring 01260 270350 ext 2 with the details. With these details we can then try to contact the relevant party involved to advise them of the damage and the what the cost of the repairs are.