

Responses to Social Media question on mowing of verges

1. In response to the question asked of Fulbeck residents in the September 2026 News and Views, the verges and village greens in Fulbeck should be regularly mown and not allowed to grow tall.
2. In response to the request in News & Views, Paul and I would like to state that we absolutely want mowing to continue on The Green. When mowing was stopped as an experiment, the Green soon became unsightly. And as residents living right by the Green, we have to look at it more than most. Not only that, given that it is used for parking for the Church during services and funerals, and sometimes the pub at busy times, leaving the Green to grow tall is not practical. It is also potentially a trip hazard for people parking there. We would strongly object if a decision was taken to stop mowing. To add, having long grass outside a pub where cigarette butts are often discarded poses a significant fire risk in the height of summer.
3. Following the item in the September issue of News & Views. The verges and greens should continue to be mown. Why?
 - a. The unmown greens and verges make the village look untidy and unkempt.
 - b. Some of the unmown verges are a safety risk because they restrict the view of traffic if you are crossing the road.
 - c. Unmown verges and greens are a fire hazard especially if the hot weather of this summer is repeated.
 - d. Leaving these uncut is not in my opinion rewilding if that is the intention of leaving them uncut.
4. At road junctions, unmown grass and tall weeds either side can block sightlines so I would prefer to see these areas mown or kept to a manageable height for safety reasons. Also, overgrown roadside verges which spread across narrow footpaths make walking difficult.
5. I would like to see the village greens continue to be mown as it has traditionally been done for years as it enhances the beauty and the tidiness of the village, especially the church green which is vital for parking whilst attending church services. I have attended previous meetings about this and expressed my opinion that they should be mown. The grass verges alongside the main road by the church and along to the North End Lane should continue to be mown for the same reasons as I have previously stated. The overgrown verge alongside the playing field looks a mess but I know it's for rewilding so that should be left like that with the metre at the roadside edge mown so that traffic can see when exiting the playing field.
6. I would like to keep the verges maintained from a safety point of view for drivers and pedestrians. There are areas where we do not have pavements so

pedestrians need to use the verge and an overgrown verge may obscure trip hazards. From a dog walkers perspective it is very difficult to pickup from tall grass. An unkempt village green shows a lack of pride in the village appearance. I can't imagine Northend residents would be happy holding their party in waist high grass and the same for church goers who park on the green.

7. Further to a facebook request, we should like mowing to continue.
8. I would like Fulbeck Village Greens and roadside verges to be maintained.
9. These should definitely continue to be mowed. This is a beautiful village and unkempt verges will detract from its natural beauty. Also there is a risk for drives when the verges aren't kept clear. We are surrounded by fields which provide a wonderful habitat for our wild life, unkempt verges are of little benefit.
10. I have noticed an item in the News and Views this month posing a question about the maintenance of verges and public greens in Fulbeck and requesting comments.
11. I find it interesting that this request is quite discreet and wonder why this isn't more widely publicised. It would have been helpful to understand the context of the question and what has prompted it. My own view is that these spaces should be maintained and kept tidy. There are several reasons for this;
 - a. It is crucial to ensure unfettered visibility for pedestrians and vehicles as they navigate our country lanes and exit driveways and side roads - long grass and plants create a serious hazard to walkers and traffic where entries and exits are masked by growth.
 - b. As summers are forecast to become drier with greater likelihood of wildfires, long grasses on roadsides and common land present a significant risk.
 - c. Maintenance of our verges and common land is a service we pay for as part of our council tax.
 - d. If the request for responses has been prompted by ideas for re-wilding, I would suggest that a rural village like Fulbeck offers a wealth of habitats for wildlife and nature within gardens and the surrounding fields and woodland.
 - e. It is noticeable that the cutting of verges and verges has become less frequent and this is starting to spoil the attractiveness of a village that has always been widely regarded as a desirable place to live. Our house values benefit from this reputation.

I would be interested to learn more about the reason for the question and how the responses will be shared and managed.

12. We would like to see verges mown for the following reasons: Safety at junctions, Varying height grass is better for wildlife. Mowing half the green- as was done looked ridiculous and an eye sore Leaving verges to grow is not rewilding.

13. We would like to request they continue to be mowed, there are plenty of long areas around the village already for wildlife. The verges and village green spaces look really unkempt and run down if left to grow.
14. With reference to the article in News & Views, I would like to comment that the village looks very untidy and unkempt when the verges and greens are not mown. Also, it is hazardous trying to leave the sports club car park and looking right as the long grass obscures vision.
15. I am strongly in favour that the greens and roadside verges in the villages should be mown. I am all for preserving habitat for bees and other wildlife and feel that the verges outside of the built up area of the village should be mown no more than twice a year, but within the built up area of the village, I feel that the grass should be mown frequently. My primary reason is that these areas may seem less well trafficked, but in fact residents do occasionally want to walk on the east side of the main road or near the cross behind the pub. Using these areas even for walking becomes difficult when the grass is too long. In addition, we have such a pretty village and I feel that the mown greens and verges enhance the beauty of Fulbeck's buildings. As for the greens, the one at the North End is used all the time and would be impassible if not mown. Where would we have our annual North End picnic that happened two weeks ago if we could not enjoy the green that we share?; On a related note, why does the triangle of grass at the North End between Keeper's Cottage and Home Farm get mown so seldom? It is consistently messy and impassible. This is common land which does not belong to either of those houses. I often feel that the North End is forgotten on the regular mowing schedule, but we are just as much a part of the village as everyone else. More frequent mowing would keep that triangle tidy and useful.
16. I'm responding to your note to Fulbeck residents asking for their views on whether the verges and greens should be mowed, or whether the vegetation should be allowed to grow tall.
17. Our views are that the village greens should continue to be mown, as they are an asset for the community, important open social spaces where we can socialise together, (recent BBQ) and a space where children can play. I can only speak for the North End green. The roadside verges could be allowed to grow, but need to be controlled to allow views and vision of roads and signs, and clear views at junctions e.g driving out of the playing field, the road view is poor because of the high verges, and even as a pedestrian coming out of that field, you have to walk almost to the roadside for a clear view of the road because of the high verges. I understand that some of the community are keen to let these areas grow wild, but we are fortunate to live in an area surrounded by fields and wide lanes with natural verges e.g. North Heath Lane, so feel a balanced approach is preferable that supports both views.
18. Further to the request for comments , all greens and verges should be mown.

