

Parish Information Sheet



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For use by Somerset Council

From:	Mike O'Dowd-Jones Service Director Infrastructure and Transport
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Date:	5th September 2025
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To:	All Parish, Town and City Councils
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Flags and painting on roads or roundabouts

This is an update on Somerset Council's approach to flags being flown or painted on or near roads and roundabouts.

We understand that some residents may want to show a feeling of national pride and they are welcome to do so.

However, people should not paint public property without permission. This is particularly important on areas around the public highway, where flags or paint could obscure markings and pose a safety risk to road users. Removal has to be paid for from the public purse.

We would ask people not to put flags or paint symbols on public roads or roundabouts. Defacing road markings in any form is an offence under the Highways Act 1980. It can affect visibility, distract drivers, and increase the risk of accidents for both road users and pedestrians.

There have only been a handful of cases reported so far in Somerset. Our approach is to assess if the flag or marking presents a safety issue (e.g. obscuring important road markings, low hanging hazard or obscuring signage related to

highway safety etc). If it is causing a safety issue then we will take action to remove it.

If it is not causing an immediate hazard then removal will be worked into our ongoing maintenance programmes, aiming to minimise additional costs.

If you are aware of any incidents in your areas please report them via the Somerset Council website <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>.

**For more Information, please contact Mike O'Dowd-Jones:
mike.odowdjones@somerset.gov.uk**