



West End Parish Council

Flag Flying Policy

West End Parish Council's Flag Flying Policy provides guidelines for the display of flags on council-owned property or facilities within the jurisdiction of the parish. The policy aims to promote inclusivity, respect, and appropriate representation while maintaining the dignity and decorum of the council's premises.

Context

The flying of flags is not the subject of statute law in England, Wales, or Scotland. The Government liberalised the regulations surrounding the flying of flags in England in October 2012.

Under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007, for planning permissions, flags are normally treated as a form of advertising. Therefore, some flags require formal consent from the planning authority before they may be displayed.

There are categories of flags which do not require consent from the local planning authority (although the flagpole from which they are flown may). These are:

- The national flags of any country
- The flags of the Commonwealth, the European Union, and the United Nations
- The flag of any island, county, district, borough, parish, city, town, or village
- The flag of the Black Country, East Anglia, Wessex; any part of Lincolnshire, any Riding of Yorkshire; any historic county
- The flag of St David and St Patrick
- The flag of any administrative area within any country outside of the UK
- The flags of His Majesty's forces
- The Armed Forces Day Flag

The Council has the freedom to fly flags of this category on any day of the year.

The matter of flag flying on local government buildings is not bound by any specific directive. It remains for individual Local Authorities to establish their own flag flying protocols. The flag flying policies of Local Authorities in the UK vary widely in their content, formality, and the number of flagpoles available on each council building.

Arrangements for the Displaying of Flags

A flag incorporating the emblem of any religious group or political party, whether it is a party within the UK or abroad, or any flag containing any emblem or device designed to affect support for a religious group or political cause, shall not be flown from any Council flagpole.

National flags shall be flown at West End Parish Centre in accordance with the designated days provided by the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) and with due respect to the protocol detailed by the Flag Institute. The Union Flag is the national flag of the United Kingdom, the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories HPC Flag Flying Policy Oct 2018.



West End Parish Council

Flag Flying Policy

National flags should be displayed with respect and in a dignified manner, as befitting national emblems and should not be displayed in a position inferior to any other flag or ensign.

Except with special approval, the only flags that may be flown from the flagpole on West End Parish Centre are:

- The Union Flag
- The Cross of St George Flag
- The Armed Forces Day Flag
- The Commonwealth Flag
- The Rainbow Flag

Flag Display Protocols

The union Flag shall be flown year round, except when one of the following flags is being flown:

- The Commonwealth Flag shall be flown on Commonwealth Day, the second Monday in March.
- The Cross of St George Flag (the English National Flag) shall be flown on St George's Day on 23rd April.
- The Armed Forces Day Flag shall be flown on Armed Forces Day in June.
- The Rainbow Flag (also commonly known as "LGBT" / "Gay Pride" Flag) shall be flown during Pride month in June. However, this will be taken down on Armed Forces Day.

Flag Placement: Flags should be displayed in a respectful manner, adhering to proper flag etiquette. The national flag(s) should receive the highest position of honour, generally being the tallest or placed on the right side when multiple flags are flown together. Other flags should be positioned below or to the left of the national flag(s).

Flag Size: Flags should be of appropriate size in proportion to the flagpole or designated display area. The size of the national flag(s) should be larger than other flags displayed alongside it, while other flags should be of a consistent and reasonable size.

Flag Maintenance: Flags should be maintained in good condition and replaced promptly if they become worn, faded, or damaged. Regular inspections of flags and flagpoles should be conducted to ensure their proper upkeep.

Flag Lighting: Flags that are displayed at night should be properly illuminated to ensure visibility. The council shall ensure that appropriate lighting arrangements are in place for the display of flags after sunset.



West End Parish Council

Flag Flying Policy

Flag Requests and Approval Process

Application: Organisations or individuals seeking to have a flag displayed on council-owned flagpoles or premises shall submit a written request to the parish council. The application should include details such as the purpose, significance, and duration of the flag display.

Approval: The parish council shall review each flag display request on a case-by-case basis. The decision-making process will take into account the following:

- The decision of the Council to fly guest flags should be made in the spirit of displaying universal allegiance, support, or respect or to celebrate a significant international, national, or local occasion.
- It should be considered whether it is appropriate for the Parish Council to display such support on behalf of its communities. The decision should ultimately reflect the values of West End Parish Council.
- The Council shall not allow the use of flags for political purposes or for the purposes of commercial advertising.
- Before approval to fly a guest flag is granted, it should be established whether the proposed date for the guest flag to be flown would conflict with that of other flags.

Compliance and Amendments

Compliance: All individuals and organizations granted permission to display flags on council-owned property shall adhere to the guidelines outlined in this policy.

Amendments: This Flag Flying Policy may be amended or revised by the parish council as deemed necessary.