

SILCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

FLAG FLYING POLICY

The regulations governing the flying of flags in England are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007 (as amended in 2012 and 2021).

Flags are also treated as advertisements for the purposes of the Planning Regime and, as a result, some require formal consent.

The following sets out Silchester Parish Council's Flag Flying Policy which, where possible, is based on Government guidance.

Standard Conditions

All flags must:

- Be maintained in a condition that does not impair the overall visual appearance of the site.
- Be kept in a safe condition.
- Have the permission of the owner of the site on which they are displayed (this includes the Highway Authority if the sign is to be placed on highway land);
- Not obscure, or hinder the interpretation of official road, rail, waterway or aircraft signs, or otherwise make hazardous the use of these types of transport, and
- Be removed carefully where so required by the planning authority.

Flag Categories

There are three categories of flag:

1. Flags which can be flown without consent of the local planning authority.
2. Flags which do not need consent provided they comply with further restrictions.
3. Flags which require consent.

Silchester Parish Council will generally only fly flags that can be flown without consent of the local planning authority. The full list of flags that do not require consent is as follows:

1. Any country's national flag, civil ensign or civil air ensign.
2. The flag of the Commonwealth, the United Nations or any other international organisation of which the United Kingdom is a member;
3. A flag of any island, county, district, borough, burgh, parish, city, town or village within the United Kingdom.
4. The flag of the Black Country, East Anglia, Wessex, any Part of Lincolnshire, any Riding of Yorkshire or any historic county within the United Kingdom.
5. The flag of Saint David.
6. The flag of Saint Patrick.
7. The flag of any administrative area within any country outside the United Kingdom.
8. Any flag of Her Majesty's forces.
9. The Armed Forces Day flag.

Silchester Parish Council may also on occasion fly flags that comply with further restrictions, for example the horizontal striped rainbow flag such as the "Pride" flag.

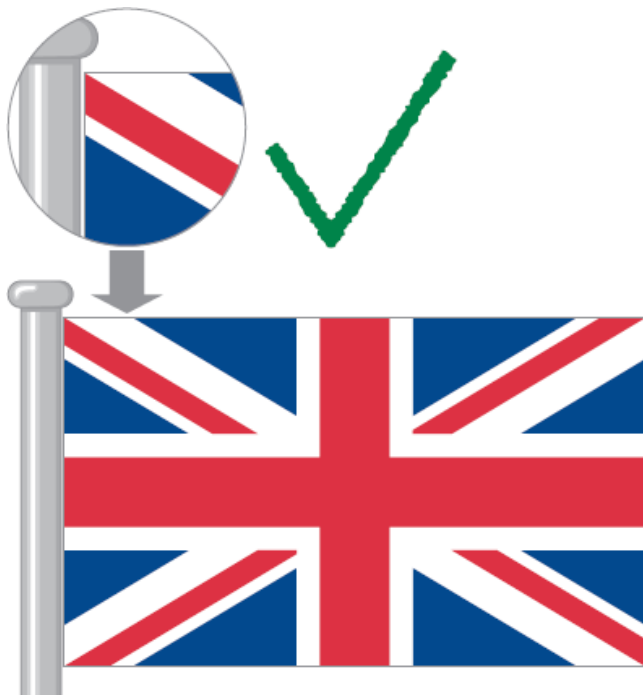
A flag incorporating the emblem of any religious group or political party, whether it is a party within the UK or abroad, or any flag containing any emblem or device designed to affect support for a religious group or political cause, shall not be flown.

The Union Flag

There is no Flag Act in UK law and the Union Flag is the national flag by long established custom and practice, rather than by statute. Silchester Parish Council reserves the right to fly the Union Flag every day, however the Union Flag is usually flown in particular on the following days:

- 1 March St David's Day
- 13 March Commonwealth Day (second Monday in March)
- 17 March St. Patrick's Day
- 9 April His Majesty's Wedding Day
- 23 April St George's Day (The Cross of St George Flag - The English National Flag)
- 6 May Coronation Day
- 17 June Official Birthday of His Majesty The King
- 21 June Birthday of the Prince of Wales
- 26 June Armed Forces Day
- 17 July Birthday of the Queen Consort
- 8 September His Majesty's Accession
- 12 November Remembrance Day (second Sunday in November)
- 14 November Birthday of His Majesty The King
- 30 November St Andrew's Day

The Union Flag will be flown the correct way up.



The Union Flag at Half Mast

Silchester Parish Council reserves the right to fly the Union Flag at half mast on the following occasions:

1. From the announcement of the death of The Sovereign, except on Proclamation Day, when they are flown at full mast from 11am until sunset.
2. The funeral of members of the Royal Family, subject to special commands from His Majesty in each case.
3. The funeral of foreign rulers, subject to special commands from His Majesty in each case.
4. The funeral of members of Prime Ministers and ex-Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, subject to special commands from His Majesty in each case.

Half-mast means the flag is flown two-thirds up between the top and bottom of the flag staff.

Guest Flags

Flags that are not specifically included in the above Flag Policy will not be flown without the prior approval of Silchester Parish Council.

Any application for the flying of a guest flag should be made in writing to Silchester Parish Council, who will consider any request for the flying of a guest flag as long as it does not contradict the principles of this Policy. Requests for the flying of guest flags may be granted provided:

1. They are made in the spirit of displaying universal allegiance, support or respect or are to celebrate an international, national or local occasion.
2. It is appropriate for Silchester Parish Council to display support on behalf of its community.
3. Flags are not used for the purpose of commercial advertising.
4. There are no conflicts with other flags or Guest Flag requests.