

# OVING PARISH PLAN

## Action Point Template

**Subject Investigated:** VERGES AND HEDGES

**Survey question numbers:** Q30, Q37, Q45, Q46, Q47

### **Description of the perceived need:**

No urgent or popular action appears to be needed.

There were no direct questions relating to verges and hedges in the Questionnaire; the closest reference being made in Q46 regarding road signs, street furniture, and fly-posting control. The majority of respondents to these questions were neutral or satisfied with the services associated with these.

Of the free comment questions there were 15 responses recorded from three questions and these were mainly asking for better maintenance of grass verges and verge edges, hedge trimming and ditch clearing. Two mentions of tree preservation were made, and one mention of reinstating hedgerows and planting new trees. Only one comment was made for reduced verge cutting – in favour of preserving a natural habitat for wild flowers.

### **Summary of relevant survey data:**

Q30 What additional or improved facilities would you like to see in Oving Parish?

(one comment out of 56 total responses = 1.8%):

*Dog muck could be cleared up and paths to and from the church need cutting back.*

*Nice rural area, so I would like to see the streams, rivers and ponds/lakes cleared out and maintained.*

Q37 Please tell us about any ideas you have to improve the environmental sustainability of Oving Parish further.

(four comments out of 38 total responses = 10.5%):

*Don't cut the pretty verges so often. They are full of wild flowers.*

*Grow and plant more trees. Replant old hedgerows. Create an Oving woodland maybe.*

*Please keep grass verges/hedge lines trimmed regularly to enable walking as a safe option.*

*Council grass verges to be cut more frequently*

Q45 Please tell us if you have any suggestions for improvements to any of these services.

(one comment out of 39 total responses = 2.6%):

*General tidiness of roadside verges owned by highways. Upkeep needs improvement.*

Q46 For each of these services provided, supported or maintained by other local agencies, please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the quality of the service.

Road signs and street furniture	3 (2.0%)	64 (43.5%)	45 (30.6%)	29 (19.7%)	6 (4.1%)
Litter and fly tipping collection	4 (2.6%)	46 (30.1%)	40 (26.1%)	50 (32.7%)	13 (18.5%)
Fly posting control	2 (1.4%)	32 (23.2%)	81 (58.7%)	17 (12.3%)	6 (4.3%)
	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied

Road Signs and Furniture:

*Very Satisfied & Satisfied rating: 45.6%*

*Very Dissatisfied & Dissatisfied rating: 23.8%*

Fly Posting Control:

*Very Satisfied & Satisfied rating: 24.6%*

*Very Dissatisfied & Dissatisfied rating: 16.7%*

Q47 Please tell us if you have any suggestions for improvements to

any of these services.

(nine comments out of 63 total responses = 14.3%):

*Grass and hedge trimming along the footpath between Kingdom Hall and Westbourne House.*

*Cycle paths are not wide enough and grass is never cut.*

*Ditches could be maintained better - something is only done when the floods are here.*

*The hedgerows in Church Lane are not cut.*

*Too many potholes and poor edges on local lanes.*

*Clean the ditches and maintain the culverts that go under the road.*

*Road signs often obscured by vegetation and/or algae - can branches really not be cut back?*

*Tree preservation is hard to get action on.*

*Verge grass cutting is totally inadequate.*

**Description of response proposed:**

OPC to set up a plan with WSCC Highways to keep hedges/verges cut/ road signs cleared of vegetation, and to maintain footpaths and pavements, and monitor to ensure works are carried out.

**Feasibility of response:**

Feasible – needs to be coordinated with litter picking to avoid cans and bottles being shredded.

**The agency which is ultimately responsible:**

West Sussex CC Highways. Environment Agency is responsible for maintaining all flowing streams. Maintenance of ditches is the responsibility of landowners or tenant farmers.

**Those who will benefit among the community:**

Walkers and cyclists: it was noted in one comment that well-maintained verges and hedges allow drivers to see pedestrians and cyclists at the sides of roads more clearly.

**Time frame and estimated costs if known:**

Short term to arrange. No cost to the Parish Council

**Plans already in process or proposed which may be relevant:**

The collection of litter has already been initiated but timing and will need to be coordinated