

Scrutiny Board :	Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board
Report Title	Grass Verge Parking Guidance Update
Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 21 January 2026
Report Author	Barry Ridgway Group Manager Assets and Maintenance, Highway Services
Lead Officer	Executive Director - Place
Wards Affected	All Wards
Appendices (if any)	1. Draft Grass Verge Guidance

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Guidance has been produced on a documented and systematic approach to Grass Verge Parking in the Borough.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Board considers and comments upon the information presented and determines whether it wishes to make any recommendations to the Executive.

3. Background and Context

- 3.1 Higher car ownership has resulted in increased demand to use grass verges for unregulated vehicular parking.
- 3.2 The council receives a number of requests each year to remove grass verges and replace with hard standing in order to facilitate additional parking.
- 3.3 Grass verge parking also creates a number of issues for The council as a result of the damaged caused by vehicles persistently parking on grass verges. Not only can it reduce the grass verge to an unsightly condition, but it can also result in obstruction of the highway, preventing pedestrians, especially those with mobility issues from accessing footways and give rise to other road safety concerns.
- 3.4 The council does not either promote or support parking on grass verges.

- 3.5 The attached guidance is intended to set out a methodology for the council to use when considering complaints about grass verge parking or requests from residents for the council to facilitate grass verge parking.
- 3.6 Application of this guidance would result in the recommendation of one of three course of action, namely:
- i. Seek to prevent the identified grass verge parking
 - ii. Seek to provide facilities to accommodate grass verge parking
 - iii. To take no action
- 3.7 The attached guidance provides information on the measures available to prevent or accommodate the identified parking.
- 3.8 Example template letters are appended to the guidance.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 No public consultation has been undertaken.
- 4.2 Consultation has been undertaken with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways.
- 4.3 Consultation has been undertaken with Finance to ensure appropriate funding. (See section 5 below).
- 4.4 Consultation has been undertaken with legal to ensure compliance with any statutory or other legal requirements should be set out for assurance. (See Section 6 below).

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The cost of verge works will vary from a few hundred pounds for simple treatment to many thousands of pounds for a parking bay scheme for example.
- 5.2 A business case has been provided and approved through the Star Chamber process for £100,000 funding for each of the next 5 years, £500,000 in total funding.

6. Legal and Governance Implications

- 6.1 Under the Traffic Management Act 2004, Parking Enforcement do have powers to enforce against vehicle parking, but only if there is an appropriate Traffic Regulation Order in place.
- 6.2 Legal advice has been sought in connection with The West Midlands County Council Act 1980 and the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, but the limitations of each of these means parking enforce using this Acts has been ruled out.

7. Risks

- 7.1 No significant risks have been identified arising from application of this guidance.
- 7.2 This guidance may promote a resident demand for intervention that cannot reasonably be met. Highways will consider each application or referral on a case-by-case basis.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)

- 8.1 No adverse equality and diversity implications have been identified from the adoption of this guidance.

9. Other Relevant Implications

- 9.1 None

10. Background Documents

- 10.1 None

11. How does this deliver the Outcomes in the Council Plan?

- 11.1 Good quality highways infrastructure will make our communities feel safe, more protected and confident in their homes and neighbourhoods, connects residents to employment, education and other services, promotes improved health and well-being and supports economic growth.