



Swallowcliffe Parish Council

Swallowcliffe Verge Restoration and Protection Project

Project Summary

Swallowcliffe Parish Council seeks funding to restore and protect damaged highway verges within the village (1) the church bus stop triangle caused by vehicle parking, and (2) the entrance to field in Barbers Lane and (3) the verge by the old churchyard -using soft-landscaping techniques that enhance biodiversity, improve visual amenity, and prevent further erosion caused by vehicle movements. The project will be delivered in partnership with Wiltshire Council Highways, subject to their approval and technical guidance.

Need for the Project

Bus Stop Triangle

The grassed triangle adjacent to the village bus stop has suffered repeated damage from vehicles parking on it. The surface is rutted, compacted, and unable to recover naturally. The area forms part of the public highway verge and requires lawful, low-impact interventions to prevent further deterioration.

Barbers Lane Entrance

The entrance to Barbers Lane has widened by approximately one metre on each side due to over-run by agricultural and other vehicles. This has resulted in loss of verge structure, soil erosion, and visual degradation. Without intervention, the erosion will continue and may compromise drainage and road-edge stability.

Old churchyard verge

The verge adjacent to the old churchyard has suffered repeated damage from vehicles parking on it. The surface is rutted, compacted, and unable to recover naturally. The area forms part of the public highway verge and requires lawful, low impact interventions to prevent further deterioration

Community Impact

- Loss of village character and amenity
- Reduced biodiversity
- Increased maintenance burden
- Safety concerns where verge loss affects sightlines or pedestrian refuge
- Risk of residents attempting unlawful DIY verge protection (stones, posts), which the project aims to pre-empt

Project Objectives

1. Restore the structure and appearance of the damaged verges.
2. Introduce soft-landscaping measures that discourage vehicle encroachment without creating obstructions.
3. Enhance biodiversity through native planting and improved soil conditions.
4. Improve the visual quality of key village gateways and public spaces.

5. Establish a sustainable maintenance plan in partnership with Wiltshire Council.
6. Provide a lawful, community-supported alternative to ad-hoc verge protection.

Proposed Works

Bus Stop Triangle & Old Churchyard verge

- Reinstatement of soil profile and re-turfing or reseeding
- Introduction of low native planting (e.g., bulbs, low wildflower mix)
- Optional subtle contouring to discourage parking, subject to Highways approval
- Temporary protective fencing during establishment (if permitted)

Barbers Lane Entrance

- Rebuilding the verge edge to its original profile
- Soil improvement and stabilisation
- Planting of low, resilient native species suitable for verge edges
- Possible shallow bunding or reshaping to deter over-run (subject to Highways approval)

4.3 Community Involvement (Optional)

- Volunteer planting days
- Opportunities for residents to participate in monitoring and light maintenance

Permissions and Compliance

All works will be undertaken only with the explicit approval of Wiltshire Council as the highway authority.

This may include:

- A Section 142 licence for planting on the highway
- Adherence to visibility and safety requirements
- Use of approved species and planting methods
- Compliance with any maintenance obligations set by the authority
- The parish council will not install any hard obstructions or unlicensed structures.