

Proposal: Installation of Union Jack Flags in the Village

1. Background

Several nearby villages, including the school and village hall in Sutton Benger routinely fly the Union Jack as a symbol of community identity, national heritage, and civic pride. These displays are well-received, create a welcoming atmosphere, and contribute positively to the character of the area.

Our village currently does not have a consistent or visible display of the national flag in public spaces. Introducing tasteful, well-maintained Union Jack flags at appropriate locations would align us with neighbouring communities and enhance the sense of shared identity.

2. Proposal

That the Parish Council approves, in principle, the installation of **permanent flagpoles** or **fixed flag mounts** at suitable locations within the village, such as:

- **The Village Hall**
- **The Village School**
- **The Recreation Ground**
- **The War Memorial area** (subject to existing arrangements)
- **Village entrance points**, where appropriate and permitted

The Union Jack would be flown as a permanent fixture throughout the year, in line with UK Government guidance on respectful and correct flag use. Flags would be replaced as needed to ensure they remain in good condition.

3. Discussion

Benefits to the community include:

- **Civic pride:** A visible, year-round symbol of unity and shared heritage.
- **Consistency with neighbouring villages:** Helps maintain parity and a sense of belonging within the wider local area.
- **Enhanced village appearance:** A permanent flag adds character and identity to key locations.
- **Community engagement:** Opportunities for local groups (e.g., Scouts, school pupils, veterans' associations) to participate in occasional ceremonial flag-raising or replacement.
- **Low ongoing cost:** Once installed, maintenance requirements are minimal.

Points for consideration:

- Appropriate siting to avoid obstruction or nuisance.
- Ensuring compliance with Government guidance on respectful and correct flag use.
- Agreement on who will monitor the condition of the flag and arrange replacements.
- Coordination with the School and Village Hall committees where relevant.
- Ensuring flags are replaced promptly if worn or weather-damaged

4. Alternative Sources of Funding

To minimise cost to the Parish Council, the following funding options could be explored:

- **Local fundraising** (community donations or sponsorship).
- **Contributions from local businesses.**
- **Grants** for community enhancement or heritage projects.
- **Partnership funding** with the Village Hall Committee or the School.
- **Use of existing Parish Council reserves** allocated for village improvements.

5. Recommendation

That the Parish Council:

1. **Approves the concept** of installing permanent Union Jack flags at key village locations, including the Village School.
2. **Establishes a small working group** (1–2 councillors plus community representatives) to:
 - Identify suitable sites
 - Obtain costings for flagpoles, brackets, and flags
 - Explore funding options
 - Liaise with the School and Village Hall committees
3. **Brings a finalised proposal** with costs and recommended locations to a future Parish Council meeting for approval.

Cllr Martin Handyside

18th May 2026