

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

80 Hewell Road, Birmingham, B45 8NF

0121 447 9893

exec@barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk



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Barnt Green Parish Council – Statement on Flags Displayed on Streetlamps and St George crosses on roundabouts

Barnt Green Parish Council is aware that a number of flags have recently been affixed to streetlamps within the village. Some of these streetlamps are owned by the Parish Council, while others fall under the ownership of Worcestershire County Council.

No permission has been sought or granted by the Parish Council for the installation of these flags. As the responsibility for Highways rests with Worcestershire County Council the Parish Council is acting in accordance with their guidance. Following a meeting held by Worcestershire County Council, Bromsgrove District Council and the police, an appropriate course of action has been determined. Worcestershire County Council have issued the following press statement:

Leader of Worcestershire County Council, Councillor Joanne Monk, said: *"In Worcestershire, we are proud of our English and British identities. I of course support flying both flags proudly throughout the county. Our national flags are a symbol of our national pride, and I will champion efforts that celebrates our nation."*

Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Councillor Karl Perks, added: *"There are many ways that people can show their pride by flying the St George's flag – in your own front and back gardens, on your cars, in your windows and on community buildings where agreed by the whole community. Climbing up lampposts and attaching flags to them may not be the best thing to do, mostly because it's dangerous and could cause damage. There are no specific plans to remove the flags."*

The statement 'there are no specific plans to remove the flags', allows for this to be reviewed in the future. For instance, if the flags become shabby/neglected. Noting that any flags that obstruct visibility at road junctions, or over bridges that may fall will be removed by WCC.

Regarding the St George crosses painted on roundabouts, all road markings on the county's highway network are strictly regulated for safety, including those on roundabouts of any size. Unofficial actions on the highway network could be distracting or cause confusion to some road users so will therefore be removed.