

Elvetham Heath Parish Council Fence Management Policy

Scope

There are a lot of wooden knee rail and mid-height fences around Elvetham Heath which were originally put in by the builders to form a barrier whilst shrubs and hedges became established.

This policy applies to all those fences on parish council or other land which is not privately owned or part of the nature reserve (managed by Hart District Council) land.

It is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors and the Council employees to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of the fences.

Policy

- As a landowner, the council has a duty of care to ensure that the fences on its land are kept in good condition. It will endeavour to maintain them and will take such action as it deems necessary to protect the safety of the public and nearby property.
- When beyond easy repair, fences will be removed and will not be replaced unless there is a safety issue. In most cases hedges have grown up and the fences are no longer needed.
- Where the wooden fences surround water courses they will be replaced for safety reasons unless a substantial hedge has developed.
- Fences will be formally inspected annually basis but will be monitored regularly.
- The Council will permit residents to replace fencing near their property, but it must be replaced like for like and **only** after permission has been formally granted.