



Flag Flying Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This policy sets out Church Stretton Town Council's policy for flag flying.
- 1.2 Church Stretton Town Council recognises that flags are emotive symbols which can boost local and national identities and strengthen community cohesion. They are a way for communities to express feelings of joy, pride and loyalty.
- 1.2. Like all symbols, flags are open to wide-ranging interpretation and, therefore, also have the potential to cause controversy and create tension between community groups whose opinions may differ. The flying of any flag must be viewed in the context in which it is flown or displayed. Factors affecting the context include the manner, location and frequency with which flags are flown. The Council has a responsibility to carefully consider the potential impact upon its communities of flying flags from its properties and how that action may be interpreted.
- 1.3. Flags are traditionally flown by the Town Council for a variety of reasons; to show allegiance, support, or respect or to celebrate. The Town Council will always be sensitive to the views of all sectors of its community and will never use flags for political purposes.
- 1.4 Under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007, for planning permissions, flags are normally treated as a form of advertising. Therefore, some flags require formal consent from the planning authority before they may be displayed. However, there are categories of flags which do not require consent from the local planning authority. These are:
 - the national flags of any country;
 - the flags of the Commonwealth, the European Union and the United Nations;
 - the flag of any island, county, district, borough, parish, city, town or village;

- the flag of the Black Country, East Anglia, Wessex; any part of Lincolnshire, any Riding of Yorkshire; any historic county;
- the flag of St David and St Patrick;
- the flag of any administrative area within any country outside of the UK;
- the flags of Her Majesty's forces;
- the Armed Forces Day Flag.

The Council has the freedom to fly flags of this category on any day of the year.

- 1.5 There are a number of categories of flag that may be flown without consent, but which are subject to certain planning restrictions regarding the size of the flag, the size of characters on the flag, and the number and location of the flags. This applies to flagpoles located on a building or within the grounds of a building. These include:

- 'house flags' that display the name, emblem, device or trademark of the company (or person) occupying the building from which they are flown (or this may refer to a specific event of limited duration that is taking place in the building from which the flag is flown);
- any sports club;
- the horizontal striped rainbow flag, such as the "Pride" Flag – this flag is an international symbol of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender social movement. It is commonly flown by Local Authorities round Britain during local Pride celebrations in order to demonstrate their commitment to equality and the inclusion of all citizens, as it is widely interpreted as a universal symbol of freedom rather than the emblem a 'political' group;
- specified award schemes (such as 'Investors In People' and 'Green Flag').

2. Information

- 2.1 Church Stretton Town Council owns two flagpoles, one is situated in the Market Square, the other in Cunnery Road Cemetery.
- 2.2 The flagpole in the Market Square is the main flagpole for the Town and the Union Flag will fly every day of the year unless special occasions provide otherwise. In sympathy to Ukraine the Town Council have resolved that the Ukrainian Flag may fly in substitute of the Union Flag whilst the conflict is ongoing.
- 2.3 Other Flags will be flown from both flagpoles on recognised days and will be flown for the agreed period of time as set out in Appendix 1 to this policy.
- 2.4 The Building Maintenance Operative will raise the appropriate flag in the Market Square at 8.30am and in Cunnery Road Cemetery by 9.00am on a recognised flag flying day. The Flag will be flown until the following morning unless specified otherwise.
- 2.6 When a flag flying day falls on a weekend the flag will be raised at 3:00pm on a Friday and lowered at 8:30am on a Monday.

3. Union Flag Flying Days

3.1 The Union Flag will be flown in the Market Square on the following occasions, in accordance with guidance from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport

- **13 March:** Commonwealth Day (second Monday in March)
- **9 April:** His Majesty's Wedding Day
- **6 May:** Coronation Day
- **17 June:** Official Birthday of His Majesty The King
- **21 June:** Birthday of The Prince of Wales
- **17 July:** Birthday of The Queen Consort
- **8 September:** His Majesty's Accession
- **12 November:** Remembrance Day (second Sunday in November)
- **14 November:** Birthday of His Majesty The King

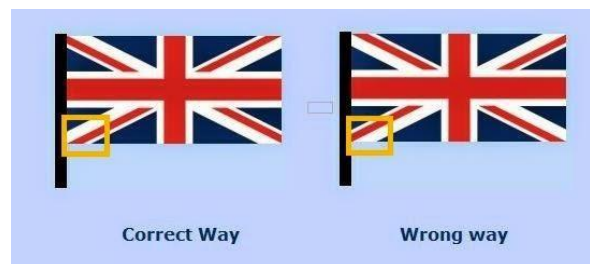
Also: The day of the opening of a Session of the Houses of Parliament by His Majesty, and the day of the prorogation of a Session of the Houses of Parliament by His Majesty. Flags should be flown on these days even if His Majesty does not perform the ceremony in person.

3.2 Dates for all flag flying should be checked on an annual basis at www.gov.uk

3.3 The Union Flag will be flown in the Market Square on the first working day following the birth of a new royal baby. The flag will be taken down on the morning of the following day.

4. How should the Union Flag be flown?

4.1 The flag must be flown the correct way up, see www.flaginstitute.org/wp/ for further details. The correct way up for the Union Flag when flying is with the broader diagonal white stripe at the top left-hand side of the flag nearest the flagpole;



5. Flying the Union Flag at Half Mast

5.1 According to the College of Arms website, the Union Flag shall be flown at half-mast in the following circumstances:

- From the announcement of the death of the sovereign until the funeral.

In the following cases, half mastings will be by special command from His Majesty:

- On the death of a member or near relative of the Royal Family or the funeral of members of the Royal Family
 - The funerals of Prime Ministers and ex-Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom
 - Any other occasions as commanded
- 4.2 The Department of Culture, Media and Sport will inform Government departments of any other occasions when His Majesty has given a special command. The College of Arms will publish details of half-masting instructions for the information of local and national government and any other interested bodies or individuals.
- 4.3 Local government bodies are permitted to fly the Union Flag at half-mast to mark local as well as national commemorations or losses, including the death of present councillors or past Mayors. In this case flags would be flown at half-mast for one day.
- On Holocaust Day in January.
 - On the death/funeral of a serving Town Councillor, local Unitary Councillor, or local Member of Parliament.

5. How should flags be flown at half-mast?

- 5.1 When flags are to be flown at half-mast, they should be two-thirds up between the top and bottom of the flagstaff with at least the height of the flag between the top of the flag and the top of the flagpole.
- 5.2 When raising the flag, it should always be hoisted right up and then lowered back down to half-mast. Likewise, before it is lowered, it should first be hoisted right up and then lowered back down.
- 5.3 When flag flying days coincide with days for flying flags at half-mast, flags should be flown right up, unless special commands are received from His Majesty to the contrary.

6. Other Flags

- 6.1 Other flags, as set out in Appendix 1 to the Policy will be flown in both the Market Square and Cunnery Road Cemetery.
- 6.2 Church Stretton is known as 'the Town of flags' and flags representing the Commonwealth will be flown interspersed with Union Flags along Sandford Avenue, Beaumont Road and High Street from the beginning of May and until the end of August each year. The Council's Outdoor Team are responsible for the position and removal of these flags.
- 6.3. Flags not included in this Policy, including those of other nations, shall not be flown without gaining prior approval from the Town Council. Applications for the flying of flags should be made in writing to the Council.

6.4 The Council shall reasonably consider any request for the flying of a guest flag that does not contradict the principles of this Policy.

24th October 2023
Review Bi-Annually

APPENDIX 1

FLAGS TO BE FLOWN IN THE MARKET SQUARE

Union Flags

Occasion	Please refer to the DCMS website for current year's dates. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/designated-days-for-union-flag-flying
Commonwealth Day	
His Majesty the King's wedding Day	
Coronation Day	
Birthday of His Majesty the King	
Birthday of the prince of Wales	
Birthday of the Queen Consort	
Accession Day	
Remembrance Day	
Birthday of His Majesty the King	

Other

Date	Occasion	Flag	Remarks
23 Feb	Shropshire Day	Flag of Shropshire	
1 Mar	St David's Day	Flag of Wales	Patron Saint of Wales
13 Mar	Commonwealth Day	Commonwealth Flag	
17 Mar	St Patrick's Day	St Patricks Saltire	Patron Saint of Northern Ireland
23 Apr	St George's Day	St George's Cross	Patron Saint of England
1-7 June	Pride Month	Pride Flag	
24 Jun	Armed Forces Day	Armed Forces Day Flag	Service Flags on poles in the square
6-12 Nov	Remembrance	Union Flag	Service Flags on poles in the square
30 Nov	St Andrew's Day	St Andrew's Saltire	Patron Saint of Scotland

FLAGS TO BE FLOWN IN CUNNERY ROAD CEMETERY

Date	Occasion	Flag	Remarks
25 Apr	ANZAC Day	Australia & New Zealand	ANZAC remembrance day
3 Sep	Merchant Navy Day	Red Ensign	
15 Sep	Battle of Britain Day	RAF Ensign	
21 Oct	Trafalgar Day	White Ensign	
6-13 Nov	Remembrance	Union Flag	Flag raised as part of the school visit