

PC082/2526a) Correspondence re signage installed on lamp posts – September 2025

Information	Content	Notes
12/09/25	<i>County Council confirmed report on Highways tool and advise to contact County, District and MP via email with any concern.</i>	
12/09/25	Assuming you're at the Hub, you'll have noticed these...To my mind, these are graffiti with xenophobic overtones and should be swiftly removed on that basis. Could you tell me to whom I need to express that view (unless it's you!) to influence the response?	Replied with details to report.
12/09/25 Follow up email sent to District, County and MP.	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I saw this morning when I was walking to work that quite a few flags had appeared on lamp-posts along the High Street in Melbourn since yesterday evening. I suppose I shouldn't have been surprised since I have heard about them appearing elsewhere, but I was quite shocked.</p> <p>I guess there are lots of reasons why someone might fly a flag - identifying themselves with what it represents is one, but when it's flown over a public space, it is far more like claiming that space for what the flag represents. What St. George's flag represents is a big topic - but to me, and likely others, it means football or nationalism. At its very, very best, nationalism is about celebrating those positive things we hold in common - perhaps a belief in fairness, the strong helping the weak, rule of law, or satirical humour. But it widely means - and always has meant - reaction against the outsider: we are not them.</p> <p>We cannot allow anyone to unilaterally claim streets, villages, towns in the name of exclusion.</p> <p>I hope that the flags will be removed promptly. I also hope that it will be possible to understand whatever the perceived grievance is that has fuelled this behaviour - it would not surprise me if the flag-hangers did not themselves feel excluded, and that's no better than the message the flags themselves send.</p>	
12/09/25	Driving through Melbourn this morning felt like driving through a Nazi controlled village. Can we please look at getting the flags removed from the lamp posts. Whoever put them up has done so to intimidate and is trying to force their views on everyone else. They have to understand that not everyone wants them and we shouldnt have this forced on us and rammed down our throats.	Replied with details to report.
12/09/25 Follow up email.	Many thanks for your email. Completely appreciate and understand that the Parish Council weren't responsible and not aware, this obviously happened overnight as they weren't there yesterday. We were really just looking at how to go about getting them taken down and as such, the detail you have provided to that effect is perfect - thank you. If all else fails and those you have provided links for will not remove them, we will be removing them ourselves next week and taking them to the local tip!	
12/09/25	I am sure you will be aware that flags have been attached to lamp posts in the centre of the village. It would be appreciated if you could arrange to have these removed as the meaning behind them is racist and offensive. I am white and British of which I am beginning to feel ashamed of.	Replied with details to report.
12/09/25	I noticed this morning that English flags had been hung on many lamp posts on the High Street. I would like to know if the Parish Council was aware and whether permission was given for these flags to be hung. If not, does the Council or relevant authority have plans to remove them given permission must be sought from the relevant highways authority to do so? I'd be grateful for clarity as soon as you are able.	Replied with details to report.
12/09/25	<p>It has come to my attention that overnight a number of St George's flags have appeared down Melbourn high street. I'm emailing to ask whether permission was sought by the local council for this to happen?</p> <p>This would usually not be an issue for me and I would usually be proud to be British, being born and raised in England. However, this is now a concern given the current political climate in the UK/England with regards to Reform propaganda, this</p>	Replied with details to report.

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	<p>seems to have given a rise in the St George's flag being highjacked to promote right wing ideology in a harmful racist way and is now giving permission to people who support this to openly discriminate via verbal and physical means.</p> <p>I'm all for freedom of speech as long as it doesn't cause harm. I have lived in Melbourn for the past 16 years and as a community we usually live together peacefully, have a diverse and inclusive supportive community spirit. Unfortunately, this no longer feels the case with the sheer number of St George's flags down the high street and the impact it is already having on our community, particularly our children and their mental health. This has caused considerable worry for my children who my eldest on their school walk this morning was messaging to let me know and ask about the St George's flags as they are aware of what is happening in the news and the repercussions. The same with my youngest and we were had a discussion on the way to school to reassure her worries this was causing. I also spoke to Melbourn primary school office so they were aware of what was happening.</p> <p>I would be grateful if this could be taken to the Parish council as a matter of urgency for discussion re removing the St George's flags or if not removed then to show solidarity that we are an inclusive and diverse community and stand against racism etc by other means i.e. putting up flags from other countries alongside the St Georges flags.</p> <p>I hope to hear back from you soon with a positive response.</p>	
12/09/25	<p>I want to know what is being done about the flags that have appeared around the village today. I am totally against them and unless there is a good explanation, they need to be removed as a matter of urgency. Please advise what the Council intend to do about this.</p>	Replied with details to report.
13/09/25	<p>I regularly visit my xxxx in xxxx and today have driven through Melbourn High Street to reach her home. I was surprised, even shocked, to see so many St George's flags on the street lights along the high street. Do these represent a national pride or more political anti-immigration sentiment. If everybody put up flags on these public structures is that acceptable to all parishioners?</p>	Replied with details to report.
16/09/25	<p>I am writing to ask whether this is the appropriate place to raise a concern about the recent appearance of the St George's Cross and Union Jack flags around Melbourn.</p> <p>Without going into the complexities of the political debate surrounding these symbols, I find their display in our communal areas deeply uncomfortable. Seeing them displayed in public spaces feels exclusionary rather than unifying, and it leaves me deeply saddened.</p> <p>I would like to respectfully request that the flags be removed from communal areas, or at least that this concern be considered as part of any decision making process about their continued display.</p> <p>If this is not the correct place to raise this issue, could you kindly direct me to the appropriate authority?</p> <p>Thank you very much for your time.</p>	Replied with details to report.
16/09/25	<p>Hi - The flags that have been attached to the village street lights are equivalent to vandalism. No one has permission to attach advertising or political messages to structures they don't own. Furthermore, as an immigrant with a UK passport, they make myself and my family feel unsafe. If this is allowed, what happens next? Is our legal access to GP services and schools going to be blocked by these same far-right groups?</p> <p>Melbourn PC should take a stance. There is a time and place for all peaceful speech and sharing of views but we all know what the flags on the poles represent, and that is the views of a vocal & often violent minority.</p> <p>Could you please make a statement and also remove them immediately?</p> <p>I am happy to go on record as the person who requested they be removed if we have to go to that level of detail.</p>	Replied with details to report.
16/09/25 Follow up email.	<p>I will do. When is the next council meeting? Can the public attend? I think the silent majority need to be heard here - if the flags are not up with permission, then they can equally be removed by the public w/o permission, correct?</p>	Responded with details

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	<p>Not asking the council to "choose a side", just make it fair because the flags represent something luckily most of the village doesn't support or accept. I would like to organise a peaceful gathering in the centre of the village for all those who want these flags down. How do I do that and can I get the council's support?</p>	of next meeting.
16/09/25	<p>I'm writing to express my extreme discomfort with the increasing display of the English flag—specifically the St George's Cross—within Melbourn village. While I understand that for some, this may represent national pride or cultural heritage, I feel it's important to acknowledge the broader context and the troubling associations that have grown around this symbol in recent years.</p> <p>The flag has unfortunately been co-opted by far-right groups and nationalist movements, often used in rallies and campaigns that promote exclusionary and racist ideologies. Its presence in public spaces can feel less like a celebration of community and more like a statement of division. For many residents, particularly those from minority backgrounds, it evokes a history of hostility and marginalisation.</p> <p>I believe our parish should be a place of inclusion, where symbols reflect the diversity and unity of our community, not ones that have been weaponised to signal intolerance. I urge the council to reconsider the use of the flag in parish-affiliated spaces and events, and to engage in dialogue with residents about how we can foster a more welcoming environment for all. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	Replied with details to report.
17/09/25	<i>District and County confirmed continue to advise to report via highways tool.</i>	
17/09/25	<p>...we wondered what the status was with the England flags? Is there a way of supporting you to remove them? Or is there anything we can do/organise as a community to get them removed. It really is having a negative impact on so many in our community and is quite uncomfortable.</p>	Replied with details to report.
19/09/25	<p>We would much appreciate the removal of these flags in Melbourn. Maybe the Parish Council (with the SCDC?) could consider doing this.</p> <p>As it only takes one or two people to put them up on property that does not belong to them we do not see them as representative or appropriate.</p> <p>Time and the weather will work but it would be good to not have to watch them slowly degrade.</p>	Replied with details to report.
19/09/25	<i>County statement: Our highways team follow a standard process when things are placed on our highways. They are considered as damage or could be a safety issue so will be removed. We'll continue to monitor the situation along with our partners.</i>	
20/09/25	<i>Informed by the Hub that access had been requested for a meeting prior to the Parish Council meeting to be held on 29 September.</i>	
20/09/25	<p>I understand that there is a meeting taking place on the 29th of September to discuss the removal of the St George's Flags that have been put up in the village.</p> <p>One can only assume that the meeting has been called for by the same individuals that have been putting signs and stickers on the lamp posts.... also illegally I might add!</p> <p>The signs say "every one welcome in Melbourn" & "say no to hate, it's our flag too"</p> <p>In my opinion it is the lefties who are the ones causing the division by suggesting that those who erected the Flags and support them are racists.</p> <p>How dare these people make out that the flying of the English flag...in England...is racist & how dare they suggest that those who support the flying of the Flags are racist.</p>	Replied with details of meeting and how to report signs.

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	<p>The "say no to hate" & "everyone welcome in melbourn" signs suggest to those who live in the village from ethnic minorities that the Flags are aimed at them... Anyone with half a brain knows that this is not the case, it is the unwarranted accusation of racism by the left that causes the alarm! Of course everyone is welcome in Melbourn... Just not ILLEGAL immigrants! The Flags are being flown to show pride and solidarity. Solidarity for the people of this nation, of all colours, who are against huge amounts of ILLEGAL immigration from "war torn" France. Solidarity for the people who say no to two tier policing & no to two tier justice. Solidarity for the people who are concerned that women and girls no longer feel safe to walk the streets. Gone are the days when the left can accuse good people of racism. The silent majority are no longer silent. We should be proud to fly our Flags in our village. I am reaching out to you to ask that you do not bow to the pressure from the minority who object, we should be proud to fly our Flags. I suggest that the removal of English Flags in England would mark a very sad time indeed. I trust that the elected councillors will stand with the people. Please advise on how this meeting will be handled, I await your response.</p>	
21/09/25	<p>I have heard that a hand full of people have a meeting on the 29th to take down our country's flags. I served this country and lost good friends fighting around the world so people of our country and Great Britain can have their freedom. I lost my life 3 times in 1 night due to me fighting on the frontline and I will not have people Diss our country's flag or those who lost their life's defending our flag. I will also not have people in Melbourn and Meldreth say our flags are racist, I am fuming that they say our flags are racist when I have fought side by side with many religions and faiths and people I call brothers and sisters. I and many others will be at the meeting which has been kept very quiet from the public. Leave the flags up.</p>	Replied with details of meeting and how to report signs.
21/09/25	<p>To whom it may concern, I would like to express my disgust in the meeting that's going to be held in relation to taking down the flags in the village, we live in a country where freedom of speech and expression has always been fine yet now it's going to be taken away from us, we are not racist or thugs like the lefties state we are, we are just people who have been suppressed for many years when it comes to being patriotic and proud of our country, we should be proud of our country and that includes being multicultural! The problem in this country right now is not migration, it's illegal migration where we don't know who is crossing over and what their background is and our children are no longer safe because of this, no one thinks the many many people who have moved to our country and became part of communities and work hard are any problem at all but saying our flag is racist is pure insanity and this is what will aid in the fall of our country and freedom of speech. I beg you to understand that the real issue here is the far left, they are very dangerous individuals and it's needs to stop! Our ancestors did not fight in a war to save us from a dictatorship for us to just give in now to a dictator.</p>	Replied with details of meeting and how to report signs.
23/09/25	<p>County removed all unpermitted flags and signage from lampposts.</p>	