

MA081 2627b) Clover Way – fire concern



25 July 2026 – Contact from resident

I am not sure who I should be contacting with regards to the land directly in front of the Hopkins Homes site. I am unsure who is responsible for the cutting and maintenance of this area. I am particularly concerned due to the tinder dry condition of this land, the extensive growth of the vegetation and the potential fire risk to the properties, 2,4,6, and 8 Clover Way. It will only take a dropped cigarette to set this area alight. In addition, there are extensive road works planned from 3rd August to 1st September directly in front of these properties and this area of land. It would only take a spark from machinery, kerb stone cutting etc, to cause a fire. This is now becoming a fire hazard to both life and properties.

Your advice or information as to who I should contact with regards to this risk would be appreciated.

27 July 2026 – response

The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining this land. The area forms part of a strategic greenbelt space and is managed in a way that supports biodiversity, which is why it is maintained as a wildflower and wildlife area rather than being regularly mown.

I appreciate your concerns regarding the exceptionally dry conditions and the potential fire risk to nearby properties, particularly with the forthcoming roadworks in the area. I have passed your comments to our grounds maintenance contractor for review and will ask that the area is inspected to determine whether any additional management measures are appropriate at this time.

I would also note that there is a paved area between the wildflower section and the adjacent properties. This creates a valuable separation between the vegetation and the homes, which helps to mitigate the risk of fire spreading directly to properties. Whilst I appreciate this does not remove the risk, I hope it provides some reassurance that there is a physical break between the vegetation and the residential properties.

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Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. If we receive any further information or recommendations following the inspection, I will let you know.

27 July 2026 – response from contractor

We have had this in the past on other sites and do appreciate residents concerns.

The areas are extremely dry and this raises concerns about cutting at the moment due to machines being engine powered and the heat this creates. If cut to early the flowers are unable to seed and this could have a impact on how successful the area is next year.

I would recommend cutting a little early towards end of September to give time to seed and also I would imagine get some rain to mitigate the fire risk when cutting.

Kind of your call as if it did catch fire it would not be a positive event.

Sorry I have no clear answer.

Response

Under advice from current and alternative contractors it was decided to not proceed with a cut at this time – although this would reduce the risk of fire it also carries a high risk by undertaking the cut. A dynamic risk assessment of the area was carried out – hardstanding in front of the properties should provide enough of a firebreak to protect the properties.

Committee to consider any further actions at this time.