

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 96
APPLICATION FOR LICENCE TO PLANT IN THE HIGHWAY
This application is for Town and Community Councils

SECTION 1 - To be completed by Applicant(s) and sent to Carmarthenshire County Council's Street Works Section, Environment Department, Parc Myrddin, Carmarthen. SA31 1HQ

The applicant should also read the standard conditions on the next page.

1.	Full Names and address of Applicant(s).	
2.	<p>Please give the following information about the highway on which it is proposed to plant grass, flower seed mixes, shrubs, etc.</p> <p>a) Name of road and precise location of site. (please provide a plan</p> <p>b) Width of carriageway.</p> <p>c) Width of highway verge.</p>	
3.	Give full particulars of the trees, shrubs, plants, flower seed mixes (annual/perennial, composition), grass, etc., which it is proposed to use, including full grown height and spread trees and shrubs when mature and depth of excavation.	
4.	Please provide a brief statement re how the work will be carried out and how ongoing maintenance will be carried out.	

Date.....Signed.....

(This section should be completed by Street Works Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council)

1.	Special Conditions (if any)	
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2.	General Remarks	
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STANDARD CONDITIONS

1. In the case of emergencies, the County Council and service providers reserve the right to remove any plants and will not be liable to pay for any damage.
2. The planting must not obstruct visibility of drivers at junctions and/or bends, or private entrances.
3. Applicants are advised that any planting should not enclose the highway and that the land, the subject of the licence, remains highway over which the general public are free to exercise their rights of passage.
4. Maintenance of the planting is the responsibility of the licensee.
5. The licence shall be annexed to papers relating to the premises and shall remain in force until withdrawn by the authority.
6. All planting and maintenance works within highway limits must be carried out in a safe manner with appropriate signing, lighting and guarding in accordance with Safety at Street Works and Road Works guidance and supervised by a person holding a Street Works Supervisor Card. Care must be taken to ensure that all operatives and the public are kept safe and no damage is caused to underground apparatus.

Re the use of 'wildflower' seed mixes:

In general (and following Plantlife advice) we believe that, whilst wildflower seed mixes and plant plugs have their place (e.g. within urban areas on amenity grassland and around buildings), it is often better to leave verges alone and let species grow there naturally. In this way, they will retain the local character of our flora which makes Carmarthenshire so special: a Carmarthenshire roadside, will be different to verges in other parts of the UK. Our local plant species are often better suited to the local climate and soil conditions, which might not be the case with the flowers in a seed mix.

If communities wish to use them then please consider the following:

- what is growing there already? Can this be enhanced by cutting and collecting the grass to remove nutrients and encourage more flowering plants within the sward?
- could you sow yellow rattle seed on its own? This is a semi-parasitic flowering plant that can weaken the existing grass and encourage a more diverse sward.
- please think carefully about what you are sowing - are you sowing annuals, biennials or perennials – or a mixture? This will influence the results of your sowing and the ongoing management/maintenance.
- please think about the timing of the sowing, the ground preparation required and ongoing maintenance that is needed – these may be significant and need to be considered as part of your project.
- where are you getting your seed mix from? Try and use a local source and definitely from within the UK.

Many of the pictures we see of the use of wildflower mixes require the use of herbicides to kill off the existing vegetation, and these mixes do not usually last more than one year. Suppliers often advise that the mixes are treated with herbicide prior to a second sowing of seed in the second year. This is a relatively costly approach which usually relies on herbicides to be successful.