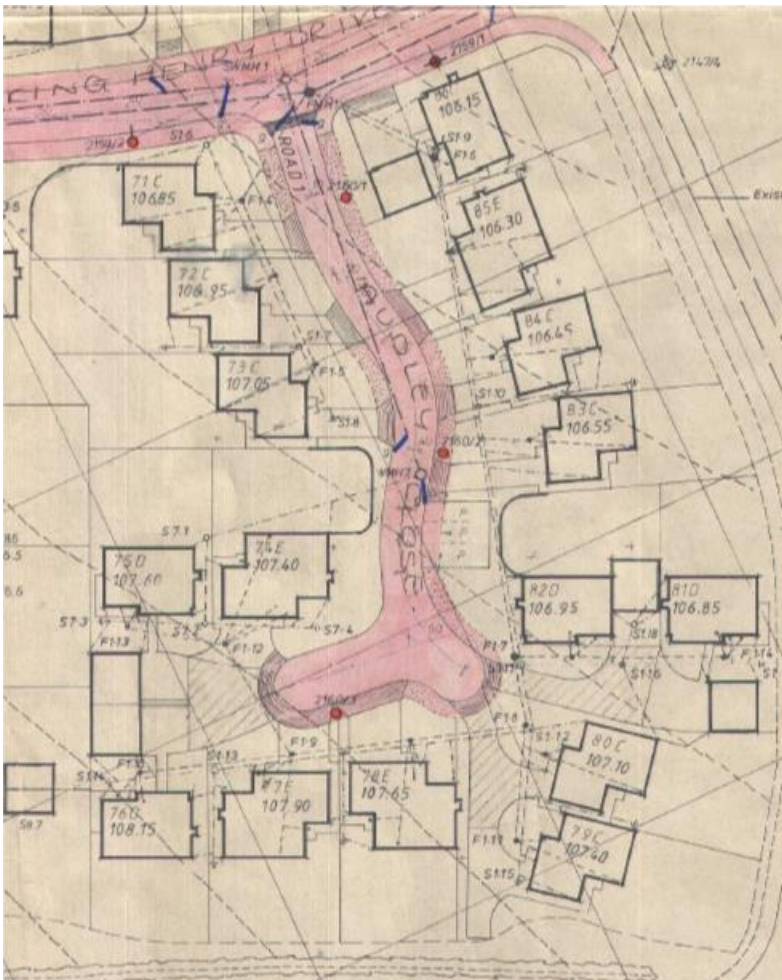


WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Grounds Maintenance – Service Strips

1. Background:

- 1.1 Across the Parish there are service strips. There are generally 1.2 metre to 1.5 metre strips of shrub bed or grass that runs alongside the boundary of a property. These strips are usually in the ownership of Swindon Borough Council – most likely as part of the public highway. They generally perform a function to bring services to residential streets including street lighting.
- 1.2 In the majority of cases, residents/homeowners have adopted it as part of their garden and maintain it themselves as such.
- 1.3 Service strips are not shown on the maintenance mapping information that forms part of the deed between Swindon Borough Council and West Swindon Parish Council.
- 1.4 From time to time, a resident stops maintenance and the feedback from Swindon Borough Council is that this is '**highway maintained at the public expense**'. When it is grass or greenery on the service strip, it is expected by Highways that the Parish Council takes on the maintenance.
- 1.5 An example of this is shown at Audley Close below:



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Areas shown coloured pink
are highway maintained at
the public expense.

- 1.6 Technically, the service strip is part of the highway and its absence from the Parish Deed indicates that it is not Parish responsibility.

2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 That this Committee notes the potential implication and impact of maintaining service strips across the Parish and notifies the Clerk/Parish Manager of any necessary actions arising.

Paula Harrison

Clerk/Parish Manager