



NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

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North Tawton Town Council Flag Flying Policy

This is a document that sets out North Tawton Town Councils approved and agreed practices. Any deviation must be by resolution of the full Council.

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Introduction

Flags are a very British way of expressing joy and pride – they are emotive symbols which can boost local and national identities, strengthen community cohesion and mark civic pride.

Certain categories of flag do not require planning, or other consent (e.g. the Union Flag) others do not require planning consent provided certain restrictions are met (e.g. The Rainbow Flag or NHS Flag).

North Tawton Town Council will ensure compliance with Government guidance, as given in the Flying Flags: A Plain English Guide (20/06/2021 version available via gov.uk and a copy stored in the Town Council Office) This also includes obtaining planning consent to fly any flag not listed in this Policy.

The Union Flag

The Union Flag will be flown from the main flagpole situated off the Memorial Park Car Park on High Street on the dates stated below:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| • March (2 nd Monday) | Commonwealth Day |
| • 6 th May | Coronation Day |
| • 17 th June | Official Celebration of His Majesty's Birthday |
| • November (2 nd Sunday) | Remembrance Sunday and up to the 11 th November |
| • 14 th November | Birthday of His Majesty the King |

And also:

- In recognition of a royal visit in consultation with the Lord Lieutenant of Devon
- For official Royal events and celebrations
- The death of the Sovereign or member of the Royal Family in line (at half-mast) with issued guidance with a mourning cravat
- The death of a serving Town Councillor (also at half-mast)
- On official Twinning visits from Blangy Le Chateau

The correct way for the Union Flag to be flown is with the broader diagonal white stripe at the top left-hand side of the flag nearest the flagpole as shown:



When the Union Flag is not being flown then one of the North Tawton Town Flags shall be flown from the main flagpole. The two designs of the Town Flag shall be alternated every six months.

Other unrestricted flags

The following flags do not require consent and do not have any restrictions. These flags may be flown at the decision of the Town Council and may be flown on the flag brackets on the Town Council Office using the portable flagpoles.

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The North Tawton Town Flags (both designs) will normally be flown permanently, being substituted by other flags on the relevant dates.

When the flags are not being flown, any two flags from the following list may be flown on the Town Council Office flagpoles at the discretion of the Council.

- Devon County flag
- North Tawton Town Flag (see below)
- St George's Day, 23rd April - Flag of St George
- Armed Forces Day flag
- Any flag of His Majesty's Armed Forces

Remembrance Sunday

To mark the significance of those who lost their lives in service of the Country the Union Flag and the Remembrance 'Lest We Forget' flags will be flown from the Town Council Office flagpoles from the Monday before Remembrance Sunday and up to the 11th November (if that is later).

Guest Flags

Requests to fly guest Flags for other purposes or celebrations will only be considered by the Town Council if the request is received in writing at least one month prior to the date of the event and the flag is provided by the requester. Any decision to fly a guest flag will be considered at Town Council Meeting.

Approval for guest flags will only be valid for 12 months. Guest flags will be flown on one of the diagonal flagpoles on the Town Council Office unless specifically requested to be flown in Memorial Park. Donated flags will be returned to the requester.

Flags not permitted

The Town Council will not approve the flying of any flag that represents and advertising for commercial purposes, support for any political party, emblems in support of any Company or organization not specifically approved by the Town Council.

North Tawton Town flag

Government guidance specifically permits the flying of a 'Town' flag with no restrictions.

Health and Safety

The flags on the Town Council Office will not be flown when:

- the wind speed is likely to exceed 25mph in line with flag industry standard advice and the exposed nature of the holders
- in the event of planned maintenance
- when the requirements of the risk assessment are unable to be met
- if appropriate members of staff are unavailable

Flags will only be erected and removed by the Council contracted Maintenance Technician to comply with Health & Safety and insurance requirements.

The main flagpole and hoist cord will be checked annually for damage and wear. The projecting brackets on the Council Office and portable flagpoles will likewise be checked annually.