

Parking

Parking problems were the second most important issue identified by residents in the first survey. In the second survey 90% of residents said that actions to tackle these issues were important. Five specific issues were identified and residents' views on each were explored in the second survey.

Modifications of existing yellow lines

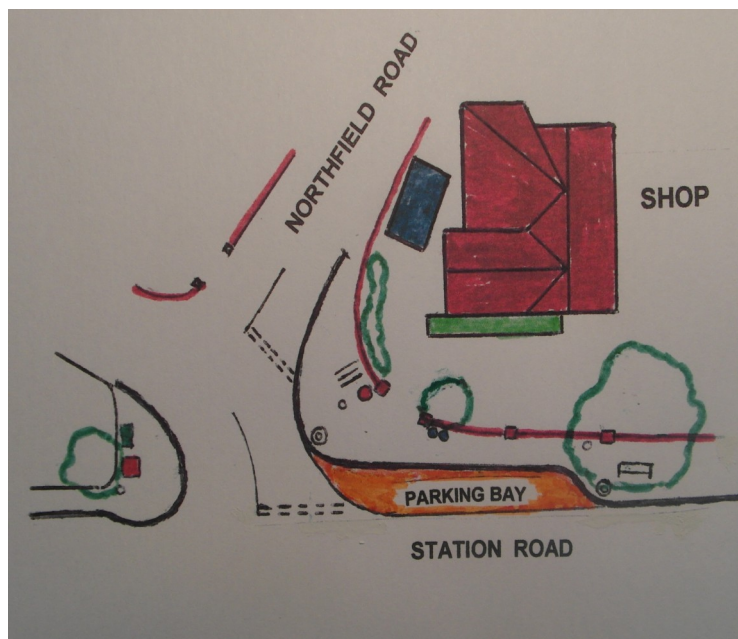
Commuter parking was seen to be a major cause of congestion, and whilst many regretted the need for any parking restrictions, the majority of residents accepted them and felt that the initial arrangement had resulted in some improvements. Over two thirds favoured further changes on grounds of safety. The following are proposed, in order better to control parking to ensure safety and access.

- A double yellow line should be introduced on the north side of Station Road from above the drive to Chestnut House to meet the existing lines near the war memorial.
- Between this new line and the existing double line on the same side at the bottom of the road, parking should be allowed at any time. However, there should be provision to enable vehicles to be passed by those in the opposite direction, without the need for drivers to wait at the top or bottom of the road for a clear road, with the consequent temptation to speed along the road whilst clear. To be effective such 'passing places' should be sufficiently large (15m minimum), and visible from both ends of the road. Two lengths of road where two house drives are adjacent would provide such 'passing places'. Minor modifications to existing yellow lines should also ensure adequate sight lines from Little Holme/Holme Cottage to enable the safe exit of vehicles.

Reduction in the space for parking may result in some overspill into adjacent roads. The Oaks, and that part of Brocks Way from Nos. 14 and 23 are most vulnerable. The reintroduction of some parking in Brocks Way immediately off Station Rd, would reduce this risk. Parking for 3 or 4 vehicles should be introduced on the west side of the road for a distance of 15m from the double yellow line at the Station Rd corner.

Corner Shop parking

The existing configuration of road and footpath outside the Corner Shop is ambiguous and confusing. It creates significant safety risks for vehicles and pedestrians. Over two thirds of residents favoured action to deal with this problem. It is proposed that the area should be rearranged to provide a designated 15min. limited parking bay, at road level, for 3 vehicles. The bay, which would be approx 20m by 2.5m, should be differentiated from the roadway by the colour of its surface. Bollards should be installed at each end of the bay to prevent vehicles crossing the pavement on entry or exit. Additional cycle stands could be provided on the pavement adjacent to the post box, and a bench could be located on the pavement beyond the bollard at the other end.



Proposed parking outside corner shop

Primary School parking

There is considerable congestion in the roads near the school particularly at pupil drop-off and pick-up times. There are clear safety issues as well as inconvenience for local residents. There have been several accidents at the Memorial Avenue/Plough Lane junction. 60% of residents favoured action to deal with this problem.

Traffic cones have been placed around the left corner from Memorial Avenue to Plough Lane, but the fact these are usually flattened and the grass beside the footpath worn by tyres, is sufficient evidence of vehicles mounting the curb and cutting the corner, which is a major threat to pedestrians there.



Not a good place to stand!

It is proposed that this corner is eased a little, so as better to allow large vehicles to turn, and that a high 'containment curb' is installed. To clarify the parking restriction at the corner it is proposed that a double yellow line be introduced around the corner to include, and thus replace, all of the two areas currently marked 'Keep Clear'.

Implementation of all of the above proposals would be the responsibility of OCC. The Parish Council should use its best endeavours to try to ensure action. In the case of yellow lines changes the target should be mid 2014. The other proposals should be targeted at the end of 2014.

Use of Memorial Hall car park

A footpath was established to join the Memorial Hall car park and the footpath at the school. This is not well used by those going to/from the school, but the majority of residents favoured action to encourage its use.

It is proposed that a clear, permanent, sign be placed near the school gates, requesting drivers to use the Memorial Hall car park and to use the 'Walking Bus' arrangement.

A school car park?

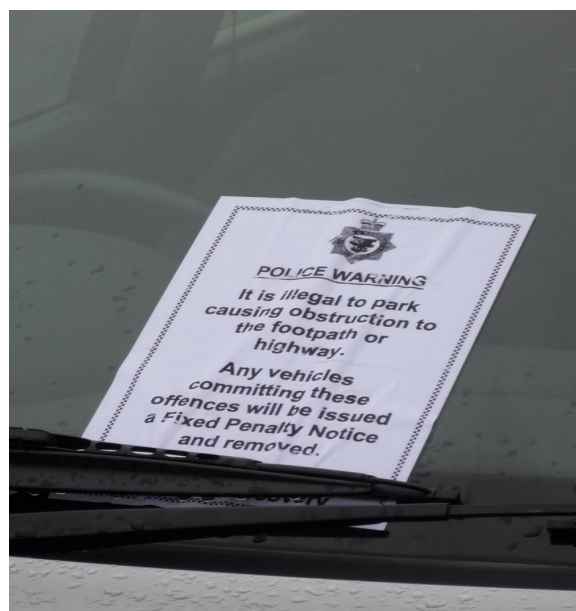
The parking and safety problems at the School could be eased with the above actions - but certainly not solved. The provision of a car park in the field opposite with access from Memorial Avenue has been investigated before but not pursued. It is the only measure that would adequately deal with the parking and related safety problems, and would be essential if there were to be any further growth of the school. The difficulty and cost of implementation would be great. A large area of land would have to be acquired or leased. Planning approval would be needed. The cost will be substantial.

It is proposed that no action be taken to establish a new car park at the present time; however it should remain a longer term possibility.

Parking on pavements

Parking on pavements is not illegal except at corners and at yellow lines. Parking such as to block pavements is illegal and action can be taken by police. Parking partly on pavements might seem justified where parking is required and the road is narrow, but elsewhere it has perhaps become a habit. Many residents dislike this practice, and the majority favoured action to deal with the matter. Local Authorities are now able to erect signs to indicate that parking on pavements is not permitted, but many such signs would be required and residents would probably not want them.

Discouraging this practice will not be easy and is likely to be best achieved through *Community Action*, e.g. the placing of requests on 'offending' cars.



Illegal parking -a police notice