

Minutes

Compton Village: Parking

Meeting of Interested parties, 10th July 2018

Present

Sarah Baskerville (The Village Hall)

Ted Corner (The Club)

Gaye Elvidge (The Church)

Peter Graham (The Parish Council)

Clive Grant (Compton Little Theatre)

Miranda Wells (The Village Association)

Apologies

None

Background

When there is an event at The Church, The Club or The Village Hall, we often have 40 or more associated cars and this presents a parking issue. When 2 or more of the venues have events at the same time this becomes a serious problem despite sharing parking.

The church had c. 20 weddings this year with 40 or so cars with a car park that has only approx. 20 spaces. With Loseley's successful wedding business, which they are planning to grow, the associated usage of the church will no doubt grow too.

When there is a CLT performance, there are approx. 140 people if it sells out, with say 20 cast and 10-15 helpers, so often 60-70 cars. The parking in the layby outside the Village Hall (Highways owned) only takes a few cars and presents a safety issue as cars back out into the main road when leaving, often with no visibility if they are next to a larger car or van.

The Club has 9 official places, but can cater for 16 cars if they block each other in. The club hosts approximately 20 events per year.

A few years ago someone counted the car parking spaces throughout the village, both in car parks and along the roads and counted 99 in total. These include 16 at the club, about a dozen along Spiceall, 15 at the Village Hall, 20 at the Church car park, some at Puck's Oak Barn and other bits and pieces. These spaces need to allow for residents and guests.

Of note

It was noted that the Church car park has a bad surface and is not lit on a winters evening and residents often use it for parking as well.

4 years ago Joanna Cadman surveyed views on proposals for temporary mesh on parts of the green to allow permanent and/or temporary parking with a variety of bases on behalf of

the Parish Council. There were a variety of responses. The consensus was that it may be out of date and did not exactly meet current potential options.

Suggestions for parking on the Green

It was unanimously agreed that any parking area should be temporary by arrangement for specific events. Locked and the responsibility for locking / unlocking and management of parking to be held by those responsible for the events at the time (namely the Village Hall, Compton Club and Church). The site should be secure to prevent any uninvited guests. There would be a strict time limit on how long the vehicles could remain on site.

Location & screening: The front runner was SB's suggestion of access from Spiceall in front of The Old Congregational Church, where there is current access, with a small area running some of the length of the common alongside the road. There would be screening with a low hedge on the common side of the parking area. This would give the benefits of reducing road noise for Spiceall residents and screening them from any cars parked there as well as providing a safer barrier for both children and dogs from the road and the parking area. It would be low enough for people walking or driving past to be able to see the common. It would also be beneficial to the Old Congregational Church as it would ease parking outside their house and the problem of people blocking them in when attending events with limited parking. Size wise, PG has measured out similar parking at other car parks and drawn a scale model. His area was 20 m x 10 m and fitted 24 cars parked very tightly. Assuming people won't park as carefully as this with no bay markings and bearing in mind cars are getting bigger, we will assume this space would take 20 cars. Therefore for 60 cars, we would need a 600sq m space allocated. The parking would be herringbone for safety and to reduce the width of the access corridor. The parking would be one-way with an exit on the Polstead Lane end. Note this is entirely on GBC land.

If this area were not suitable, it was generally thought that the next best option would be from the same access point but turning immediately left into a parking area along Spiceall running towards the playground area.

The issue of drainage of the soil was raised and it was mentioned that Richard Paxton had said that between September and April you currently cannot park on the grass. TC recommended mole draining it and said this should last for approx. 20 years.

The different types of surfaces were discussed but it was agreed that we should find out if in principle GBC would agree, then we could get quotes for the different ways of doing it and see which was most viable. However everyone agreed that in an ideal world, it would look as grass like as possible without the cars getting stuck.

Funding: It was hoped that there might be contributions from the Village Hall, CLT, the Parish Council and the Village Association. Also mentioned was we might try to apply for a lottery fund and / or a contribution from GBC.

Safety / Insurance etc – need to work out who would be responsible depending on whose land it was on.

Note: The green (The Street end) is owned by GBC and that the rest of the green is owned by the Compton PC. The footpath across it must obviously be preserved and may need re routing slightly.

Alternate suggestions

SB asked if we had looked into all other options of land that could be used eg. Pikke's field, Ken's field and Field Place's agricultural area. Both Pikke's and Ken's fields were discounted as being too far from the Village Hall and the Club with unlit access and rough ground. Pikke Blunt has allowed the church to use her field on a couple of occasions, however, their house is on the market so it probably isn't an option at the moment. We agreed to approach Field Place to see if they might consider allowing us to use their tarmacked agricultural area even if it was on a paid basis and the rough usage would be Thurs / Fri / Sat CLT, Fri / Sat CC, Thurs / Fri / Sat / Sun The Church for weddings and funerals. CLT would require approx. 9 days, the Club, approx. 2 functions a month and the Village Hall an additional function per month. In total approx. 45 occasions a year.

Action

1. Find out if the church car park belongs to the church. (SB). Sarah has confirmed that the church car park is owned by the church. She does not think that the church will want responsibility for opening and locking it but she has kindly offered to do this for the church if and when the need should arise.
2. Approach GBC planners to see what their initial thoughts are before deciding whether to progress the initial idea of parking on their land. To ask initially for 70 spaces. (PG)
3. Approach Field Place to see if they might be agree to occasional use of their parking for overflow. (MW)

Next Meeting

Date to be confirmed once we have feedback from the action points.