

Barkway Parish Council

Appendix A - To the Parish Council Meeting

held on Monday 14th August 2017

Notes from the meeting of the Car Park Working Party

Held in the Pavilion on Tuesday 18th July at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr. Bernie Morss

Cllr. Graham Swann

Clerk/RFO Catharine Toms

Tom Wornham (representing Barkway Village Hall)

Penny Irons (representing Barkway Social Club)

Michelle Bonfield (a resident)

Lynette Tully (a resident)

Apologies:

Natalie Sanchez

Welcome:

Graham Swann thanked everyone for coming to attend the meeting.

Aim of the Working Party:

To come up with an acceptable solution to create a new car park, with an option of a new play area. The aim being to resolve the dangerous car parking problems being experienced along Cambridge Road when there were more people/cars using the facilities than the currently available off road parking amenity could accommodate.

Everyone was in agreement that there was a problem of lack of available parking for the Pavilion and Recreation Ground which needed to be urgently resolved.

There were 4 options available:

1) Do nothing.

Continue to have cars park haphazardly along Cambridge Road, up over the footpaths and on the verges and hope that there would never be an accident.

2) Approach the Social Club to see if they might be willing to let out their field behind them and the Village Hall.

Disadvantage of this option was that it would cost a lot of money to create a car park with the necessary landscaping as the site was on a slope. It would mean people would have to cross the road to get to the Rec. Access would be through the Village Hall car park, not ideal. In any case, Penny Irons informed the meeting that this was no longer an option for the foreseeable future as a third party had now taken out a long term lease on the field for grazing.

3) Approach Sworders (land agent of Thomas Keir) to see if he would consider extending the existing Village Hall car park to make additional space for users of the Pavilion and Rec.

Catharine Toms reported that she had already spoken to Heidi Smith at Sworders who had unsuccessfully tried to contact Thomas Keir. She was advised by Heidi that his lack of reply indicated that he was not interested.

4) Create a new car park on the Rec.

There were pros and cons to this option. In favour - it would mean the Parish Council, as owner of the land, would have full control of the facility. Against - it would mean losing some of the recreational area and having to move some play equipment. Some play equipment was very old and would not be viable to move, so it could mean further investment in new equipment.

Tom Wornham informed the meeting that the Village Hall Committee had contacted the Parish Council on a number of occasions regarding the dangerous parking and had even come up with a solution some time back for creating a car park in the Social Club field. This option was now no longer available. The dangerous situation had gone on for too long now. He felt that he had now passed over the responsibility to others to sort out the problem and that to do nothing was not an option.

Recently the Parish Council had come up with a solution of creating car parking on the Rec. which would have involved moving 6 pieces of play equipment but a significant number of people had strongly objected to the proposal, so the project had been shelved. Had this not happened the project would have by now been complete.

By involving members of the Parish Council, Social Club and Village Hall and village residents it was hoped that a mutually agreeable solution could be found at the earliest opportunity.

After some discussion it was considered that the ideal solution would be to create a new car park on the Rec. but in a different location to the previous proposal, thereby creating a larger area that could accommodate up to 40 cars in front of the Pavilion (the original proposal by the Parish Council would have only created about 18 car parking spaces and some criticism received was that it was not thought big enough to deal with the scale of the parking problem). The play area could then be moved in its entirety over to the other side of the Rec.

There were arguments for and against a fenced in play area. To fence in would preclude older children from wanting to use the play equipment but advantages would be that smaller children would be contained within the safe area and it would be kept free from dog fouling. (It was noted

that RoSPA recommended fenced in children's play areas). It was considered that the purchase of some adult gym equipment might be a good idea to make the facilities inclusive for all age groups. This equipment could be sited outside the fenced in area.

Michelle Bonfield had already been investigating sources of possible funding for new play equipment.

Having come up with an idea it was agreed to research it further and meet again in September with more information to hand.

Actions:

Bernie Morss and Graham Swann to measure up and draw up a proposed plan for the new car park and play area.

Lynette Tully would talk to people in Barley about their recent playground project.

Michelle Bonfield would continue to research funding sources and would obtain brochures and prices on play equipment. She would also look specifically at adult gym equipment and try and recommend two pieces for good all round exercise.

Catharine Toms would continue researching car parking and also play areas, noting any regulations that would need to be taken into consideration. (Alison Gower would also be consulted on health and safety requirements before finalising specification). Once dimensions and specification were available she would contact suppliers for costings.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 12th September at 7.30pm in the Pavilion