

# **PARKING IN GREAT BUDWORTH – A PUBLIC MEETING**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 7.30pm**

## **Great Budworth Parish Hall**

First, our thanks to those villagers who took the trouble to complete and return the questionnaire which was included in the June issue of the Budworth Bulletin for the households in Great Budworth village. We set out below a summary of the findings.

The next step is to consult further by holding a public meeting (details above), to which all members of the public are invited.

At this meeting members of the Working Party will give details of the background to this initiative, as well as more details of the survey results. They will also add their own thoughts on the findings and on the solutions proposed.

Following the public meeting, the next step will be for the Working Party to submit its findings and recommendations to the Parish Council, which will then decide what, if any, steps to take to address the parking issues in the village.

Do try and attend the meeting. We hope to see you there!

*Malcolm Torrance*

*Chairman, Parking Working Party*

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### **Analysis of the 66 completed questionnaires which were returned by villagers (22 online and 44 paper responses).**

- 85% have at least one car and 12% have no off road parking
- 14% struggle to walk more than 100 yards
- Half of the respondents' friends and relations park off road when visiting.

### **Problems identified (not in any special order)**

1. Thoughtless and careless parking in parts of High Street and Church Street, especially where the roads narrow.
2. The School: morning drop-off and afternoon pickup and also occasional major events. (N.B. A recent communication from the school has asked parents who travel from the Aston-by-Budworth direction to park at the bottom of Farthing Lane. Safe exit will be needed; for example, a convex mirror at the Westage Lane end of the lane.)
3. The Church: some weddings, some funerals and some events.
4. The Pub: inappropriate parking on the road in front of the pub, when there are spaces in the pub's own car park.
5. 'Open Garden' events.
6. Tradesmen/contractors parking throughout the village.
7. Parking opposite the former post office entrance.
8. Parking on High Street opposite and adjacent to the Mount.
9. Parking opposite/across: the Top Pump House and the Lych Gate; at the junctions of Church and High Street, and High Street and Southbank.
10. Resentment amongst some High Street residents of other residents' parking habits.

## **Solutions suggested by Respondents**

The following solutions were suggested by respondents. They are not in any specific order, but some were more popular than others. We have added some (non-exhaustive) 'Pros' and 'Cons' identified by Working Party members.

### **Park On Your Own Land Where Possible**

Pros:

- Improves neighbourly interactions
- Helps neighbours with no off road parking

Cons:

- Needs a little more public spirit
- May simply release more parking space for non-residents, i.e. not resolve the problem.

### **Greater Use of Pub Car Park by both patrons and non-patrons**

Four respondents suggested this idea. It is used already by parents of schoolchildren at drop-off and pick-up times, with goodwill from the pub.

Pros:

- Reduces on road parking

Cons:

- None identified

### **Greater Use of Parish Field**

21 respondents considered this a good idea.

Pros:

- Large space already owned by Parish council

Cons:

- Road access and surface down Smithy Lane would need upgrading
- The narrow pinch point would need widening
- The field surface would need to be all-weather, but in keeping with countryside
- Low level lighting would need to be installed, with timer switches etc.

### **One Way System**

15 respondents considered this a good idea: seven suggested a downhill restriction and eight suggested an uphill restriction.

Pros:

- If downhill, the restriction should remove not only traffic but also speeding cyclists
- Would help stop the village being used as a 'rat run'

Cons:

- Very inconvenient for some residents
- No convenient and safe roads with which to create a circular pattern
- High likelihood of traffic offences being committed (drivers reversing or driving the wrong way along roads)
- Would require more signage.

### **One Way on the A559 To Cock Lane**

A proposal suggested years ago but refused by the then County Council.

Pros:

- Would stop the village being used as a 'rat run'
- Safer access onto A559 at the Cock o' Budworth

Cons:

- Would require more signage
- Would be major and costly innovation – highways authority highly unlikely to agree
- High likelihood of traffic offences being committed (drivers reversing or driving the wrong way along roads)

## **Parking restrictions: two possibilities were suggested**

### **1. Yellow Lines**

Four respondents considered this a good idea.

Pros:

- In the Highway Code, so no excuse for ignorance

Cons:

- May make parking far worse for villagers, especially those with no off-road parking
- Ugly
- Would lines be painted on road or cobbles?
- Difficulty of enforcing
- Would require more signage

### **2. Studs to Delineate Parking Areas**

Two respondents favoured this proposal and three opposed it.

Pros:

- More aesthetically pleasing than yellow lines

Cons:

- May make parking far worse for villagers, especially those with no off-road parking
- Signs would be necessary to inform drivers of their function
- Poor compliance likely as they are much less widely known than yellow lines
- Difficult to enforce

## **Additional Parking Areas Suggested By Villagers**

### **Converting the bowling green and tennis court to a car park and transferring them both to the parish field.**

Pros:

- Closer to the 'centre' of the village than the parish field
- Less road upgrading would be needed on Smithy Lane

Cons:

- Loss of a visually appealing part of the village
- Cost of resurfacing and lighting
- Would increase congestion at Cob Corner and Smithy lane

### **Create a Car Park on Mr Williamson's Field**

Pros:

- Closer to Church and school, and slightly closer to the pub, than Parish field

Cons:

- Similar to Parish field (as above) i.e. need to upgrade Farthing Lane and install all-weather surface and lighting
- Ownership of Farthing Lane and right to use it for access is uncertain
- Exit off Farthing Lane unsafe
- Not currently owned by the parish: if acquired, risk of it becoming an expensive 'white elephant' through underuse

### **Create a Car Park at the Bottom of the School Field**

Pros:

- Closer to the Church and school, and slightly closer to the pub, than Parish field

Cons:

- Would reduce the size of the school field for children's use
- As above re Farthing Lane (ownership of lane/problematic exit/need for resurfacing of lane and installation of all-weather surface and lighting)

## **Village Hall**

Improving parking next to hall

Pros:

- Relatively cheap

Cons:

- Would create only a few spaces

## **Other Suggested Spaces**

- Westage Farm field
- Underground
- Area owned by Mr Butters on School Lane
- The quiet garden next to the graveyard
- Those people with large houses and car parks could offer parking to others – and charge for it

## **And finally ...**

### **Leave Things as They Are**

Comments ranged from 'highly dependent upon goodwill of neighbours' to 'those down the High Street can sort themselves out'. Two respondents considered that, whatever is tried, villagers will park as close to their houses as possible.

Pros:

- Costs nothing but goodwill.

Cons:

- How much goodwill?