

PARKING IN GREAT BUDWORTH

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Parking has long been an issue in the village. A Working Party was set up in 2015 to investigate it and explore options. They conducted a survey and the report of this can be found at <http://greatbudworth.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/APPENDIX-PC9-Report-to-PC-on-Parking-in-GB.pdf> . It was submitted to the Parish Council for consideration and in February 2016 an Extraordinary Meeting was held to hear public views and decide what to do.

1.2 According to the minutes of that meeting the following resolutions were made and agreed by all:

- I. For the Parish Council to continue discussions with the school, church and the George and Dragon Pub regarding how they can help to improve the parking situation within the village.
- II. To install the new surface on the Parish Field to allow for the parking of 25 cars.
- III. To continue to consider appropriate areas for additional parking in particular the area near Farthings Lane (and to consider resurfacing this area and clearing away shrubs in order to improve the walkway and make it easier for cars to manoeuvre)
- IV. To improve the surface of the land adjacent to the village hall in order to allow parking for 6-8 cars.
- V. It was agreed that at this time the Parish Council would not go ahead with exploring any further options for residents without parking.
- VI. To explore further the introduction of formal restrictive parking arrangements (the details of which to be defined at a later date) in the centre of the village (outside the church and the Top Pumphouse)
- VII. To discuss with Cheshire West and Chester Highways a design solution in keeping with a conservation area for signage regarding concealed access/egress on High Street.
- VIII. To explore further the introduction of formal restrictive parking arrangements (the details of which to be defined at a later date) on Church Street in order to make it safer.
- IX. Not to have any formal permanent signage in place signposting the Parish Field for car parking.
- X. To in principle introduce in consultation with the Police and Highways department parking notices to be issued in response to inconsiderate parking.
- XI. That the moving of the bowling green is not a viable option, nor is the use of the bowling green/tennis club as a car park.
- XII. That the Parish Council do not wish to pursue the purchase of Mr Williamsons's land at the bottom of Farthings Lane for car parking.
- XIII. That a letter will be sent to all households outlining the decisions that have been made and urging those that have off road parking to actively use it.

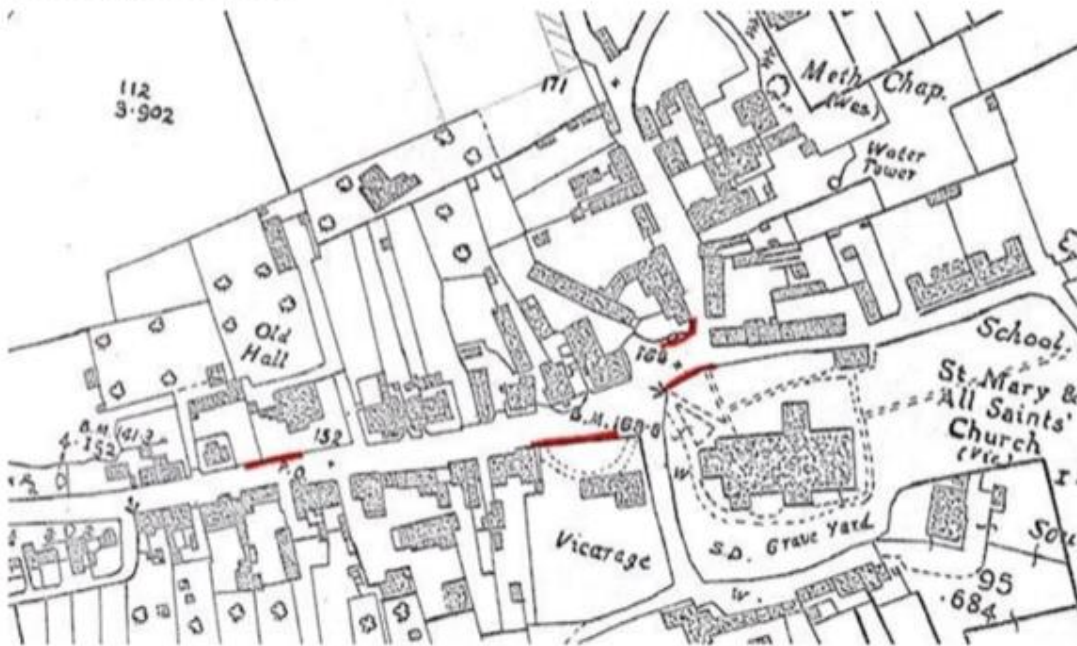
2. PARKING INITIATIVES

2.1 Since then numerous initiatives have been undertaken by the Parish Council and others to address the problems. In particular:

- a. the School continues to encourage parking away from High St and quick, teacher supervised, drop off for pupils;
- b. the pub allows parking on its land for school pick up and drop off;
- c. the Church has made greater efforts to communicate, marshal and manage parking for large events such as weddings and funerals;
- d. a “no parking” sign has been installed at the Top Pumphouse (but little notice is taken of it);
- e. a new mesh surface was installed on the Parish Field in 2017 and portable signs acquired to direct cars there (but the surface is still often too wet and people seem unwilling to walk the short distance to the field);
- f. “no parking” signs have been supplied to residents on Smithy Lane to prevent parking on verges;
- g. the land adjacent to the Parish Hall has been levelled and surfaced to allow parking;
- h. notes were affixed to cars parked inconsiderately to draw attention to the problems (but these often elicited an unhelpful response);
- i. the potential for white H bars to be painted on the road to protect access to driveways has been investigated by the Parish Council but CWAC no longer implement them if there are clear dropped kerbs. They will consider them in other cases but only on the same side of the road as the driveway (and this would not prevent the parking opposite which causes an obstruction);
- j. several meeting have been held between representatives of the Parish Council and CWAC Highways to discuss the parking problems and potential solutions, including yellow lines (but CWAC are concerned that yellow lines would only move the problem to elsewhere in the village);
- k. the Parish Council has considered siting bollards and/or planters at the pinch-point by the Church / stocks / pub (but concerns were raised about safety considerations and whether they would actually make any difference to parking behaviour. Also approval from CWAC would be required for anything on the carriageway and they are not keen on the idea);
- l. the Parish Council is currently approaching the school to further investigate the potential for a turning circle and parking at the end of Farthing Lane;
- m. a consultation was conducted in March / April 2020 via the Budworth Bulletin to seek the views of residents on installing yellow lines.

3. CONSULTATION ON YELLOW LINES

3.1 Four potential locations for yellow lines were suggested in the consultation and are shown in the following map.



3.2 Only 18 responses to the consultation were received, suggesting that although some residents are very exercised about the problem, most are not sufficiently concerned to reply. The response rate was disappointing but clearly the village is divided on the issue.

3.3 Of the 18 responses, 8 were in favour of yellow lines at all four locations. 3 were partly in favour and 7 were against.

- Those in favour cited the need to overcome problems of access to driveways; road safety; the need to deal with increased congestion; and the fact that so many parked cars are detrimental to the village environment. Some respondents actually urged yellow lines in a fifth location opposite the entrance to the Mount.
- Those partly in favour either wanted to see yellow lines at Bakery Cottage (but nowhere else) or supported yellow lines only if additional parking provision is made elsewhere.
- Those against yellow lines cited aesthetics; visual amenity; the urbanisation of the village and the loss of parking spaces close to School Lane where residents have no off-street parking.

3.4 Suggestions made in the comments received ranged from allocating parking spaces for residents, to making better use of the Parish Field and a more radical idea to use Church land for parking.

4. SUMMARY

4.1 In the face of such divided opinion it is difficult for the Parish Council to move forward on the issue. As the original Working Party pointed out back in 2016, there will inevitably be winners and losers in any decision, with parking being more convenient for some and less so for others. Also, according to their point of view, some will see the environment improved by parking restrictions such as yellow lines while others will see it damaged.

4.2 Nevertheless, the Parish Council needs to demonstrate leadership and take a definitive view on the matter. The following recommendations represent a workable compromise and are intended to do just that.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Parish Council will not support the installation of yellow lines at three of the pinch points, namely outside the Vicarage & the Hollies; along the Church wall and in front of the Top Pumphouse;

5.2 The Parish Council will support yellow lines opposite Bakery Cottage and approach CWAC to carry out the necessary consultations with a view to implementing this;

5.3 Discussions will be undertaken with school and Diocese to further investigate the potential for a turning circle and parking at the end of Farthing Lane;

5.4 Improvements will be made to the surface of the Parish Field as indicated in the minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting on March 2nd 2020.

5.5 The Parish Clerk will contact Dent Parish Council (as suggested in one of the consultation responses) to see if there is anything to be learned from their experience of tackling parking problems.