

Email consultation with parking permit holders of West St Car Park - Wednesday 9th November 2022

Message sent:

We have noticed an increase in cars parking on the green space between the play park and the parking area of West Street Car park, and the grass is consequently beginning to suffer. The results of a community engagement consultation on Facebook in November 2020 concluded that 77% of residents would not be in favour of losing this green space to parking.

We are aware that the parking situation may have been impacted by 6 spaces currently being used by Weatherhead shop fitters. They will be vacating these spaces upon completion of works before Christmas, although it is understood that cars had already started parking on the grass area prior to their arrival.

We would be very grateful for your feedback regarding the parking situation for local permit holders:

- 1) Do you regularly find that there is a lack of sufficient space in the car park?
- 2) Is the parking space availability worse in the summer months?
- 3) Do you think we should increase long stay car parking fees in line with Kingsand/Cawsand during the summer months for visitors?
- 4) Do you have any further thoughts about the parking situation that you would like to share with us?

Millbrook Parish Council would very much appreciate your feedback and will consider all comments.

Responses (13)

I was wondering if you're aware how many permits you sell and whether it correlates with the amount of spaces available in that car park... it seems like an obvious line of enquiry but you might find that you have over sold your product and so need to look at how you share a finite resource. I think charging working people more for parking is not the correct line to take particularly in the current climate.

I can always find a space and have not had to park on the grass so far. Although it's a little more crowded in the summer, this year didn't seem as bad. Personally, I would not want to see increased fees in the summer. We sometimes have family visiting and having to park all day and, like many people, they are parents of young children battling with the cost-of-living crisis. I would suggest waiting till Weatherhead have finished and reassess the situation. I don't recall seeing many cars on the grass prior to the cordoning off of the six bays.

There has definitely been an increase in cars having to park on the grass, myself included, as I do shift work, & all the spaces have gone by the time I get home. Definitely less availability

during the summer season. Not sure what the answer is. Can't limit spaces to just permit holders. I don't think raising prices will affect space availability from the tourists. They can afford it.

There is a lack of sufficient space in the car park in the evenings. I don't know about increasing the long stay car parking fees in line with Kingsand/Cawsand, as it seems to be the evenings that are more the issue. However, I should expect this will only get worse, not better. As a new Millbilly I don't know what it was like prior to this summer, however I don't think it was as bad in the summer as it has been recently - and am hoping it's just because of the shop fitters and their vehicles. However, after 5pm it's v unlikely to get a space other than on the grass! I'm guessing we also lost 2 spaces due to the electric spaces too.

Yes, there is a lack of sufficient space in the car park. Living at the top of west St this is our only parking option. We pay for permits but would say 4/5 days a week (weekdays) there are no spaces when we get back from work, so often parking on the grass is the only available space in the entire village! The parking space availability is worse in the summer months but definitely increased all year round now. I have no feelings on increasing the long stay car parking fees in line with Kingsand/Cawsand for visitors. I don't think paying more will stop people from parking there or seeking unsuitable spaces elsewhere. I do think there needs to be more car parking, maybe redo the questionnaire about the green space as I think people will have changed their minds as it's become such a struggle.

Yes, there is a lack of sufficient space in the car park, made worse by the two charging points which are often not in use. Parking space availability is worse in now than I have ever seen it. I've never had issues parking in the summer, but now, because I arrive late, I rarely find a space to park in. I agree that increasing long stay car parkings fees in line with Kingsand/Cawsand during the summer months for visitors is a good option. I do not think it's fair that people are allowed to park campers in this area. I know they are buying permits, but it's more important that people with families or that work have somewhere to leave their cars than camper van owners that leave vehicles parked cheap all winter in this area. I also believe that if you buy a permit, you should have a parking bay allocated to that permit. It does not seem fair that you charge for permits, but do not reserve a space for that permit holder. You should not be selling tickets for parking spaces you have already sold to residents.

Happy to see a seasonal price increase on parking, and strongly oppose increasing the number of spaces by cannibalising valuable green space. Weatherhead is the nexus of the issue (six spaces lost, often six cars on the grass). In general we should be penalizing car reliance. Note I am a car owner.

There is generally a lack of space in the evenings, and is worse during the summer and other school holidays. Usually, it would be fine at this time of the year and I suspect it will be fine again once the shop fitters have gone. I've no idea if increasing long-stay fees will do anything to ease the pressure on spaces. I'd have thought that anyone wealthy enough to be

renting a property down here for a holiday wouldn't be put off by an increase to the current rates. That said, I'm broadly in favour of it if it allows the Parish Council to raise more funds and doesn't indirectly penalise local residents. Aside from the shop fitters and the EV charging points, I think another contributory factor recently is the increased number of larger vehicles using the car park on a long-term basis. I often find there are people parking on the grass when there are still a couple of spaces next to a bus, caravan or mobile home. It's my guess that people are using the grass rather than attempting to squeeze into the tighter spaces these vehicles leave. Not that I think they shouldn't have the right to park there if they fit into the marked spaces, it's just an observation really.

Further to your information, there are currently 8 spaces out of action if you do not have an electric car. I do regularly find that there are insufficient spaces in the carpark and not necessarily just in the summer months. Even at this time of year after 6.30 there are cars on the grass and no available spaces with non-electric cars in the charging bays. It would appear that generally there isn't the capacity as there are often more than 6 cars parked in excess of the bays which is frustrating if you are a permit holder. Unfortunately without increased parking spaces I don't know how the situation can be resolved.

It's okay in the daytime but early evening/nighttime is getting increasingly tricky. 100% parking space availability is worse in the summer months. I know of people who visit Cawsand but park in West St Car Park and get their friends to drive them back and forth because it's cheaper here. There are just a lot more people about too. 100% yes please increase long stay car parking fees in line with Kingsand/Cawsand during the summer months for visitors! There seem to be a lot of camper vans and vehicles which aren't in regular use who take up spaces permanently. This feels a bit unfair; I get that they pay for the privilege too but for those of us with nowhere else to park their only car it can be a bit frustrating. I also note a LOT of cars with no ticket, I'd like to see the car park better monitored so those of us who do pay don't end up driving around the village at night desperately trying to find somewhere to park!

I don't really have much input on the other questions, but increasing the long stay car parking fees in line with Kingsand/Cawsand during the summer months for visitors sounds like it might have unintended consequences, viz: Is the intention to make visitors park elsewhere? If yes, then where would they park? If the intention is to raise more money, that might work, but unless the extra money is spent on more parking it won't solve anything. Define "visitor" - somebody from Torpoint or Plymouth who comes over here for a day trip? I know that I resent being asked to pay more during summer at Car Parks such as the one at Sharrow. That policy is clearly aimed at holiday makers but affects locals like me who simply want to go to their local beach. Also, we went out yesterday in our van (for which we have a car park permit) and when we got back at 6 p.m. the car park was full and there were 3 vehicles parked on the grass.

There can be a lack of sufficient space in the car park, which mainly occurs once the charging period has ended (post 16.00), and worse in the summer months. Maybe consider longer charging periods rather than increasing costs? Especially as many permit holders return from work post 18.00 and find that the carpark is already at capacity, therefore having to park on

grass. Regarding the Facebook survey, a lone percentage is not enough information to be making assumptions. Please can you provide more supporting data from the survey. Also, many users of the carpark do not use social media, therefore you may not be getting an accurate picture of local opinion. Polls should be completed in a manner that includes as many people as possible if the results are to be used to direct Parish Council policy. Only posting a poll on social media may be seen as lazy. For example, I do not use SM and therefore didn't have a chance to engage with that poll, I am disappointed to hear that it took place without my knowledge. Who knows what other polls have taken place? I would also be interested to know the ratio between how many cars have permits and the capacity of the carpark, and how this may have changed over the years.

We have recently lost 8 parking spaces not 6. Two have been taken up with Electric points so are permanently out of use. During the day several spaces are taken up with builders' vans. I do not think parking is any worse in the summer. Parking fees for a month or two (summer only) could perhaps be increased but not for yearly parking. Last year we (at the same address) had the opportunity to use the same annual permit on 2 cars, which was very convenient when returning home with heavy bags. As one car could be in the carpark so the other car space at home would be free for such a situation. Swapping cars would still mean only one space in the car park was used. I would be prepared to pay a bit extra on the annual permit to allow for this. Maybe both car registrations could be on the permit? There seem to be a lot of vans/camper vans and a small bus in the car park now. Are the owners all permanent residents of Millbrook? Should the people applying for annual permits be checked to see if they are on the electoral register? Maybe they are. We would not like to see the green spaces reduced although at present too many cars are using it as parking even down towards Millbrook Works. The grass area is often used for parking by a tractor. Please consider a 2-car permit for the near future. My partner pointed out the 4/5 campervans/motorhomes haven't moved for a number of weeks (ie. long-term storage almost!) and I wondered if this is an issue that you may or may not be aware of!

I've noticed that the car park has become more full of late. Certainly there have been times during the past few months when I haven't been able to find a free space, generally on a weekend. This was never a problem as recently as a year ago. Just a week ago I returned around 5pm ish on Sunday, and the only free space was one of the as yet unconnected electric vehicle charging spaces, which I had to use. I have also noticed people parking on the green space by the park entrance before the shop fitters were there. Though again, only in the latter part of this year. I wonder if there just aren't enough spaces in the car park now to accommodate the amount of resident cars. Undoubtedly the car park is busier during the summer. I'm in favour of higher long stay parking fees. I think the residents who pay for a permit, having nowhere else to park, should have priority parking. How that can be implemented, I'm not sure, unless there are numbered spaces... Time for a brainstorming session!

I would agree with the first point - there is not sufficient parking in that car park especially now the works are going on. I, personally, would be happy for a little extension into the green area. Perhaps space enough for another 5 or 6 cars.