

Parking at the Social Club

A resident has complained about vehicles parking outside the Social Club blocking pedestrian access along the High Street outside the Club. At the last Committee meeting the Assistant Clerk was asked to investigate the ownership of the land used for parking.

The Land Registry title plan shows that the Social Club's ownership extends only to the building itself and not to the land in front, which therefore appears to be the Highway. However, there are concrete strips set into the ground in front of the Club which could be intended to demarcate its ownership, in which case the Highway would lie on the other side of those strips. Parking bays have been marked within the area marked by the strips between the Club and the Highway.

Even when parked within the marked bays, vehicles overlap the concrete strips and intrude into the Highway (defined as being outside the strips) where they obstruct pedestrians passing along the High Street. The marked spaces at the western end of the Club frontage are comparatively short and unsuitable for longer vehicles, although used by them.

Along that length of road there is no pavement and, beyond the Club a grass bank comes up to the edge of the road with no safe pedestrian way past.

While ownership remains to be resolved it seems that there is at least an area of the Highway that is being taken up by parked vehicles preventing safe pedestrian use. From the Club into the Village pedestrians have no designated footway on the southern side of the High Street and probably, at that point, most people cross the road to where there is a pavement.

There are double yellow lines on the High Street, so parking is not permitted. If the land fronting the Club is Highway, then the parking restriction may apply there as well, to the extent of the Club's ownership (subject to checking).

Recommendation: That the Assistant Clerk write to the Social Club asking for their evidence of the ownership of the land fronting the Club and, subject to ownership being clarified, asking that they configure their parking spaces (eg diagonally) to provide for improved pedestrian access along the road.