

Whitehills Green Parking: Resident's Complaint

I am writing to both the Goring Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council, requiring immediate discussion and resolution of the parking situation on Whitehills Green in Goring whilst matches for the Goring Robins Football Club are taking place.

For clarity, Whitehills Green is a quiet single lane 20 household cul-de-sac that has no through road and sees very little traffic under normal circumstances. However, over the past two years, the parking of cars by those visiting the Sheepcot playfields on a Saturday morning (main issue), Sunday morning and evenings in summer has got progressively out of control and is now causing serious distress and possible harm to local residents. Below I have highlighted some of the key issues that are occurring on a weekly basis.

Residents blocked access in/out of driveways

On a regular basis cars are either parked overhanging, directly adjacent or directly opposite (on a narrow highway) meaning residents are unable to safely get off their driveways. This ultimately leaves residents with 3 options

- Don't leave the house
- Cause damage to the parked cars on the road
- Cut across gardens and pavements to get out causing damage to the road

This past weekend, an elderly resident had to cancel a support visit as cars were parked over her driveway. Regarding my specific driveway (no4 Whitehills) when cars are parked directly opposite and adjacent to my driveway it is impossible to get off the driveway via the dropped curb. This results in having to cut across the pavement leading to damage to both my vehicle but also to the curb. Pictures below. [photos where vehicles can be identified have been removed]



Restricted access to the road - Blocking of emergency services and larger vehicles.

On a weekly basis cars are parked so closely together on both sides of the road leaving all but a tiny gap for other vehicles to get through. This presents a harmful and dangerous situation where emergency vehicles (fire and ambulance) are unable to get through.

This presents an extremely dangerous situation given the number of elderly residents on the road.

The cars parked restrict any normal traffic flow in/out of the road – meaning it can often take 10 mins to travel the 100m out of the road from residences.

Additionally, vehicles such as food/goods deliveries regularly turn away as they are not able to get past. In recent weeks residents have not received food deliveries because delivery drivers have turned away as they cannot access properties.

Illegal parking.

Cars are also often abandoned on the roundabout within the centre of the road or at the blind junction to the main road. This is again dangerous and causes damage to the roads which requires time and money from the council to fix.

Speeding

Almost all the additional cars (often 100+) using the road are completely ignoring the 20-mph speed limit of the road and driving up in excess of 30/40mph. This presents an extremely dangerous situation given the quiet nature of the road, open gardens, and major public footpath. Those affected include

- Young children are often playing in front gardens or on road/pavement (bikes etc)
- Children walking to/from football
- Walkers using the footpath to access the great Chilterns way

Violent behaviour

Residents are often forced to approach vehicle owners and ask them politely to park sensibly and not illegally or blocking people in. This is often met with violent and threatening behaviour. I have been on the receiving end of this 3 out of the past 4 weeks and this has also led to many elderly residents not willing to leave their houses as they are scared.

Upkeep of road/cost to the council

The parking on cars on pavements and residents having to cut across them to leave properties has resulted in a significant amount of excess damage to the curb with many curb stones now sitting loose into the road. Picture below. This is not only dangerous but also requires additional time and finances from the council to repair damage that would not normally occur during normal road usage.



Timings

Having previously just been an issue isolated to Saturday mornings between 10-12, this is now become a much more widespread issue including: Saturday mornings 8-1pm, Sunday mornings and Weekday evenings in the Spring and Autumn.

Not surprisingly, parking restrictions are in place during the weekday to prevent cars from parking on the road whilst using the station. It is unacceptable that these measures are in place to protect against financial impact to the private company operating the station car park, however the financial impact, distress and harm to residents is being ignored.

Resolution

As a result of the out of control parking situation, residents are resorting to placing cones on a public highway in order to prevent parking in front of their driveways and feel they have no other options than to contact the have the police attend on a weekly basis. In my opinion this is a colossal waste of important police resources and something all parties involved (residents, football club and councils) should wish to avoid.

I have already engaged directly with the Goring Robins Football Club chairman Matt Trimmings and include him cc on this communication. Unfortunately, the club feels there is little more they can do to help try and find a resolution and are of the opinion that assistance from the council is required. Matt has agreed to support myself and other residents in our efforts.

Noting that this issue has previously been raised to both the Goring Parish Council and Oxfordshire County council with no action taken, my request is that an immediate dialogue is started between the key stakeholders to discuss anti-parking measures and bring some order to the current situation.

- I also request this issue be added as an agenda item to the next Goring Parish Council Travel & Transport committee meeting on the 18th Feb 2025. I will be in attendance at this meeting.

- I also request that should Chrisitan Mauz cc not be the relevant individual at Oxfordshire County Council, then Goring Parish Council pass on this communication to the correct team.

In summary, I am fully aware that parking is a difficult situation to manage and recognise the benefits brought by the Goring Robins Football Club to the local community. However, distress and possible harm to local residents being caused cannot be ignored and it is imperative that a solution is found before matters escalate or a serious incident occurs.