

Meeting with Goring Robins FC – Matt Trimmings

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

Parking at Whitehills Green

GPC: Cllrs Williamson and Thurston, Assistant Clerk

GRFC play in 4/5 different leagues with 3 teams per age group, national league rules require that youth teams play between 9am and 12pm, Saturday mornings are busy, Sundays less so. Adult teams play in the afternoons. Fixtures are arranged to balance out home and away matches to reduce pressure on Sheepcot Field, but bad weather can necessitate re-arrangements which means more matches are played at Sheepcot. There has been a loss of parking spaces on the access road making the situation worse recently. At weekends the carpark is used by tennis players as well as footballers' parents.

Monday to Friday training sessions are held at Sheepcot in summer (indoors in winter) and do not cause problems as parents drop off and pick up after.

GRFC write to visiting teams with details of where to park, but cannot guarantee that team managers pass that information on to parents.

GRFC's view is that parking at Whitehill Green is by visitors; every Saturday GRFC reminds home teams not use Whitehills Green.

In discussion the scope for reducing the number of games was considered limited although there was the possibility of providing two additional small pitches for younger players on the Gardiner Field and it would be worth exploring the scope for providing other pitches in the Village, e.g. on Bourdillon Field. Streatley PC should be contacted for suggestions as a number GRFC players come from Streatley.

Other solutions put forward included making the existing carpark bigger, providing parking space at the top of Sheepcot Field with an access off the Reading Road, but these would be expensive and unlikely to be achievable in the short/medium term. More practically, negotiations with GWR about free parking on Saturdays in the Station carpark, and using the space to the southern end of the carpark, for GRFC and visitors could provide a solution.

The numbers of cars parked in Whitehills Green is not many and are concentrated close to the gate accessing the Field. The problems experienced by residents could be eased if parking was more considerate i.e. not blocking residents driveways and damaging kerbs etc. and spread out along the length of Whitehills Green. The Police can be asked to provide a presence to ensure this but it may be necessary to employ someone to encourage better parking.