

To: Burwash Parish Council
cc: Huw Merriman MP

1 October 2019

Dear Councillors

We live in the east of Burwash village in the area around the top of Shrub Lane. There are several houses on the main road here without their own parking spaces. We, therefore, park in the public car park adjacent to Prospect Cottages. The car park is at capacity, particularly in the evenings.

As we all know, the bus services are limited, there are more cars per household and the yellow lines in the area at the top of Shrub Lane were recently increased. These changes have put significant pressure on the car park. As a result, we park on the wide pavement just outside the carpark. This is always done with consideration and cars are parked as far into the hedge as possible to allow footpath access. This has been a customary place to park without problem for many years.

We are also aware that lack of parking is an issue across the whole village and that the main Burwash car park is regularly at capacity.

Last week, a number of residents in the area received a Traffic Offence Report for parking on the pavement. These were issued by the PCSO and this has resulted in £30 fines issued by Sussex Police. To be clear, the cars were not obstructing the road, they were not obstructing a junction and they were not a hazard. We are all just adopting a pragmatic approach to parking in an area where there is no capacity. We feel that this is a particularly unhelpful and unnecessary action.

This raises a bigger issue for parking in Burwash. The carpark in the east of the village has never been maintained by Rother, the parking spaces are reduced by the increased, unmanaged foliage, the carpark has never had parking spaces marked out.


We formally approached Rother District Council last year to ask that the local neighbourhood could take responsibility for the carpark. Our proposals were that we would take a long-term lease or licence, clear the trees and foliage, resurface and mark the parking spaces. Our aim would be to create extra parking spaces by better land management. These spaces would be reserved for those who wish to invest and the remainder would be public spaces. This would resolve parking issues at a local level and ensure that the car park is properly managed on behalf of the Parish Council.


We were told that there was merit in the proposals but nothing would happen as Burwash Parish Council would be taking over the car parks and it would have to wait. There has been no further communication and we believe this matter is becoming urgent, particularly as unnecessary restrictions are now being imposed.


Our requests:

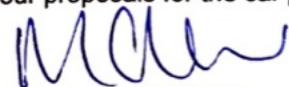
1. We would like to know what action is being taken by the Parish Council to progress the handover of the carparks.
2. We would also request that the Parish Council take a longer-term strategic view about management and provision of parking in the village, working with our MP, Sussex Police and Rother District Council to formulate a plan to alleviate this growing problem and stop unhelpful financial penalties being levied on residents.
3. We request a meeting with Burwash Parish Council to discuss our proposals for the car park in the east of the village.

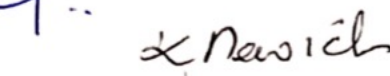
Yours sincerely

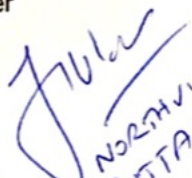

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