Barby Road Parking – Kilsby Parish Council Investigation

Following concerns raised by residents about parking along Barby Road, Kilsby Parish Council has been investigating whether additional off-road parking spaces could be created in the vicinity of the bus shelter.

Following discussions at the October Parish Council meeting, two councillors undertook an initial site visit to assess whether there was sufficient space to provide additional parking and potentially reduce the amount of parking currently taking place on the road.

What was considered?

The initial assessment found that, by repositioning the existing footpath further onto the village green on the Devon Ox side of the bus shelter, there may be sufficient physical space to create two, or possibly three, off-road parking spaces.

However, a number of significant practical and financial considerations were identified:

- **Road widening:** The carriageway would need to be widened by approximately 3 metres over a length of 15–20 metres to accommodate the parking spaces and meet highways requirements.
- **Footpath relocation:** The existing footpath would need to be removed and repositioned approximately 3 metres further onto the village green.
- **Drainage:** Existing drainage issues, particularly towards the Ashby Road end of this stretch, would need to be addressed as part of any alterations.
- **Bus shelter:** Further investigation would be needed to establish whether there are any highways restrictions or safety requirements relating to parking spaces close to a bus stop or shelter.
- **Village Green status:** As the land is registered village green, there may be legal restrictions on the changes that could be made, even if the Parish Council considered the scheme worthwhile.
- **Cost:** Although no formal quotations have been obtained, the preliminary estimate suggests that the work could cost in the region £250,000.

Impact on traffic speeds

An additional consideration is the potential impact on road safety. The existing parked vehicles along this stretch of Barby Road are believed to help reduce traffic speeds. Removing these vehicles from the carriageway could potentially result in increased vehicle speeds, which would be contrary to the Council's ongoing efforts to address speeding within the village.

The Council will also be reviewing the results from the recently installed Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) signs on Barby Road and Main Road to help inform its wider approach to traffic management.

What about the Ashby Road side of the bus shelter?

The possibility of providing parking on the Ashby Road side was also considered. However, this area is already used for a number of established village activities, and any changes would significantly interfere with these. There would also be insufficient room to comfortably accommodate more than one parking space. The same highways, drainage, village green and cost considerations would apply.

Conclusion and next steps

Following this initial investigation, the councillors' reported that the considerable work involved, together with the likely cost and potential impact on traffic speeds, makes providing additional parking at this particular location difficult to justify.

The Parish Council remains mindful of residents' concerns about parking and will continue to consider whether there are other areas within the village where additional parking provision might be more practical and achievable, without creating the same potential disadvantages.

The Parish Council considered this report at their November meeting and decided it was not viable to introduce additional parking at this location. However, the findings of this preliminary investigation will help inform the Parish Council's ongoing discussions about parking provision and road safety within Kilsby.