

Update on Grass Verge Car Parking, Belper Road, Stanley Common

Earlier this year, Derbyshire Highways met with Parish Councillors and members of the public at Stanley Common Recreation Ground to discuss car parking issues on the verge. This information was made available to view on our website: www.stanleyandstanleycommon-pc.gov.uk/documents/belper-road-stanley-common-discussions-with-dcc-highways/

In brief, Highways provided options to tackle the car parking issues on the grass verge, including:

- Verge conversion to grass-crete or asphalt
- Removal of the verge entirely
- Potential creation of a car park on Recreation Ground

Following on from this meeting, the Parish Council contacted EBC Planning to request a site meeting and discuss the potential creation of a car park on part of the recreation ground that is not used.

EBC Planning declined to attend the meeting and responded detailing that the loss of part of the recreation ground would be contrary to Policy 13 – Culture, Sport and Tourism and Policy R5 – Public open Space, Sports Facilities and Allotments.

EBC also believed that Sport England would object to any proposals made. The Clerk contacted Sport England but they were not available to attend a site meeting to discuss further.

The costs associated with creating a car park would be well beyond the current financial means of the Parish and would therefore need to be raised externally. It is highly unlikely that any grant funding would be available for a car parking scheme on the Recreation Ground.

At a Full Parish Council meeting on 27th November 2023, Parish Councillors voted in the majority on the motion not to pursue the option of a car park on the Recreation Ground.

Highways have stated that they do not have the funds available to invest in works to the verge. The verge belongs to Highways and it is ultimately their responsibility to take action. Should you wish to take this matter further with Highways, please do not hesitate to contact them directly.

Their details are as follows: Derbyshire County Council Contact Centre on 01629 533190.