

Village Hall Playing Field Protective Fence

Options Paper

Background

The Village Hall car park is a free car park, it is meant to be only for people while they are using; the Village Hall, the Football Club, the Bowls Club, the Men's Shed and users of the playing field including the play park. In addition, Saxon Vets pay the Village Hall to be allocated a few spaces for their customers. Unfortunately, the Village Hall carpark is being abused and has become the village unofficial "Free Car Park". This means that on many occasions legitimate users are unable to find a parking space on the tarmac and have to park on the grass. This is destroying the edge of the playing field and the problem is much worse in the wet weather. It must be remembered that if a physical barrier is installed and the problem of non bona fide users is not stopped then the legitimate users will not be able to park at the Village Hall.

The paper examines the options to install a barrier on the edge of the playing field, shown in red below, to strongly discourage people from parking on the grass. This barrier should be accompanied by signs to explain why the barrier has been installed. The barrier should not restrict all access as it may need to be removed in part when the grass is drier and there are major functions happening in the Village Hall. It is accepted that some people may drive onto the grass via the grass cutting access, but the aim will be to strongly discourage and not totally prevent illegal access. Alternatively, the grass cutting access could be locked with a heavy-duty padlock. Pedestrians should also be able to walk onto the grass without stepping over any fence. This work must be accompanied by a campaign to deter all users who are not bona fide users.



It is hoped that the Village Hall will be completely refurbished soon. This refurbishment does not include the car park. During the refurbishment no parking will be allowed apart from the football club as it will be handed over to the renovation contractors. It is hoped that during this period when the car park is effectively closed it will force non entitled users to find alternative locations to park within the village.

Requirement

To provide a barrier from the Football Club to the Coop two sections of fencing are required, one run of 68m from the grass cutting access onto the field to the metal barrier by the Football Club and another one of 5m to tie in from the southern edge of the grass cutting access to the Coop fence. The gap for the grass cutting machinery is 4m. The barrier must be value for money. The barrier must not be too easy to remove but able to be removed in part should the Village Hall Committee decide. The barrier should be visible to car drivers to avoid accidental collision. Signs must also be provided to explain that parking on the grass is no longer permitted. These signs should state “No Unauthorised parking on the Grass”. The cost of the signs has not been included in the figures below as this will be the same for each option.

Options

1. Do Nothing
2. Agricultural Metal Fence Spikes with rope fence
3. Short posts with rope fence
4. Railway Sleeper posts with rope fence
5. Metal Barrier similar to the Football Club Carpark (0.6m and 0.3m heights)
6. Low metal barrier similar to Melton Playing Field

Option 1 - Do Nothing

Provisions of signs only.

Pros


1. Easiest option
2. Zero Cost, cheapest option
3. Allows easy parking on playing field when functions are held at village hall

Cons

1. Does not stop vehicles driving on the grass
2. Does not protect the grass.

Option 2 - Agricultural Metal Fence Spikes with rope fence

This would entail putting metal 1.2m stakes every 2.5m. The stakes would need to be driven into the ground about 500mm so that they cannot easily be pulled out by hand. The stakes and rope can be purchased on Amazon at a cost of £118.57. Gaps would be needed in the fencing for pedestrians. This could be installed by Councillors.




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 (£15,950.00 / kg)

Subtotal (5 items): **£118.57**

Pros

1. Relatively Cheap. Cheapest option after Do Nothing
2. Provides a visible physical barrier
3. Can be removed completely relatively quickly

Cons

1. It looks temporary
2. It could be removed by Village Hall users with a little effort

Option 3 - Short wooden posts with rope fence

This entails placing 2ft long green recycled plastic posts with metal spike at 2.5m spacing and connecting them with rope. These posts retail at about £14.15 each. Allowing for gaps in the fence 32 posts would be needed at a cost of £452.80. Considering the number of posts that we are buying it is hoped that the rope would be supplied for free.



Pros

1. Relatively cheap. Second cheapest option.
2. Can be removed easily when needed
3. Looks reasonably smart

Cons

1. Can be removed very easily by anyone
2. Not really visible for reversing vehicles

Option 3 - Railway Sleeper posts with rope fence

Soft wood 200mm x 100mm railway sleepers could be installed at 3m centres and connected by a 24mm diameter rope. 32 posts are required if you install 6 posts at 3m centres and then leave a 1m gap for pedestrians and then repeat the pattern. The posts are 1.2m long and would be sunk into the ground by about 0.4m. Due to their weight they do not need to be concreted into the ground. The costs of the posts ex VAT would be about £415 including delivery. The rope would be about £500 and the fixings £75 for the end clamps and £50 for the rings, making a total £1040 before installation costs. This total may be less as the last three items contain VAT. As the posts are 3m apart the rope could be removed to allow vehicular access onto the grass.



Pros

1. Looks smart
2. The rope cannot be removed easily
3. Effective vehicle barrier
4. Posts do not have to be removed to allow vehicles onto the grass.

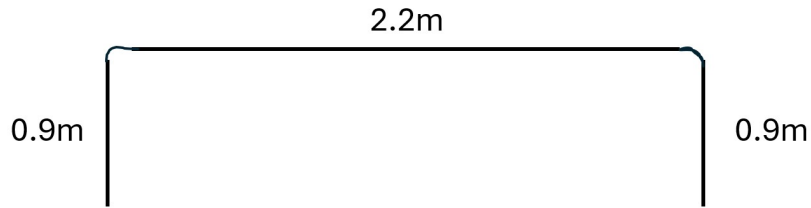
Cons

1. Fairly visible for reversing vehicles
2. Expensive

Option 4 - Metal Barrier similar to the existing Football Club car park.

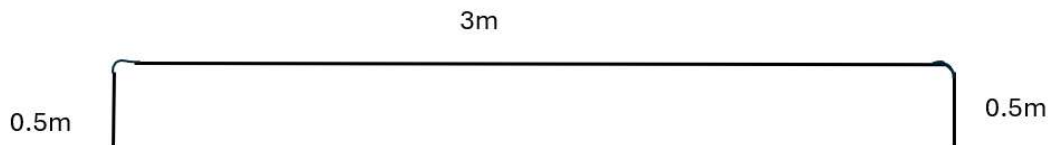


This would entail the bending of 24 x 4m (13ft) scaffold tubes into the shape as shown below and concreting them into the ground to a height of 0.6m. At least two would have to be removable and have a mechanism where they could be locked in place with a padlock.



The scaffold tubes would cost about £400 and then they would have to be bent and fitted by a contractor.

Alternatively, the barrier could be installed at a lower height, say 0.3m, such as:



This would reduce the number of tubes required to 18 thus reducing the price by about £100.

Fabrication and installation costs of about £500 are estimated.

Pros

1. Provides a barrier which will prevent vehicles from driving on the grass
2. It is visible to reversing vehicles
3. Relatively Cheap

Cons

1. Not easy to be removed
2. Not very attractive

Option 5 - Low metal barrier similar to Melton Playing Fields



This would have to be fabricated and installed by a contractor. If 50mm x 50mm square hollow section (SHS) was used as the bar with 100mm x 100mm posts at 4m centres

was used this would require about 73m of 50mm x 50mm SHS and 32 x 0.6m posts. The cost of the steel before fabrication would be about £1350. This would make the cost of the installation about £2500.

Pros

1. Provides a barrier which will prevent vehicles from driving on the grass
2. Looks smart
3. Cannot be removed easily

Cons

1. It is not visible to reversing vehicles and therefore may be easily damaged by accident.

Summary of Costs

1. Do Nothing
2. Agricultural Metal Fence Spikes with rope fence
3. Short posts with rope fence
4. Railway Sleeper posts with rope fence
5. Scaffold Tube barrier
 - a. Metal Barrier similar to the Football Club Carpark. (0.6m)
 - b. Metal Barrier similar to the Football Club Carpark. (0.3m)
6. Low metal barrier similar to Melton Playing Field

Option	Fencing	Fabrication and Installation Estimation	Total
1	£0	£0	£0
2	£119	£0	£119
3	£453	£0	£453
4	£1040	£200	£1240
5a	£400	£500	£900
5b	£300	£500	£800
6	£1,350	£1,150	£2,500

Recommendation

Unless the problem of non bona fide users of the car park can be resolved then no barrier should be installed.

RJ Jenkinson
Parish Councillor