

WOODPIECE ROAD PARKING OPTIONS

REPORT FROM MEETING HELD IN ARNCOTT VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 30TH MARCH 2017



Following on from the publication by CDC of the 2nd stage report relating to the car parking issues in Woodpiece Road, a public meeting was held in Arncott Village Hall on the evening of Thursday 30th March 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to give the residents of Woodpiece Road the opportunity to comment on the content of the report.

The meeting was well attended by a good number of the Woodpiece Road residents and five members of Arncott Parish Council. Mr Gary Owens, Mr Alex Rouse and District Councillor David Hughes very kindly gave up their evening to attend the meeting on behalf of CDC.

The 2nd stage report indicates that there are eight potential sites that have been considered by the planning and highway authorities. The sites are identified in the report as A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H (see map on front page). Four of these sites, namely A, F, G and H have been approved as being appropriate for conversion into additional car parking spaces. The remaining four sites have so far been deemed unsuitable due to all of or a combination of the following reasons ;

- 1) Potential risk to pedestrians,
- 2) not being seen as value for money,
- 3) not being supported by the planning authority,
- 4) not being supported by the highways authority.

The focus of the meeting was on the sites that have been deemed acceptable for conversion. There seemed little point in wasting discussion time on the sites that do not have approval.

The outcome of the meeting was agreement from the residents and the Parish Council members to accept the offer in section 7, option 2 of the report and to ask CDC to progress the conversion of sites A, F, G and H into car parking provision as soon as is possible.

Site A is already used as a parking area so general opinion was that very little needs to be done to this site. A resident asked for a disability bay to be created and the lighting to be improved. Concern was expressed about four abandoned cars that have been on the site for many years and need to be disposed of. Their disposal would free up four existing parking bays.

An idea from a Woodpiece Road resident was suggested for an alternative parking plan with regard to sites B and C.

A resident asked for a disabled parking bay to be created in site F.

There was very little discussion with regard to sites G and H other than get the sites converted.

Interest was shown in the grant option as described in section 4.0 of the report and the Parish Council would expect to receive enquiries from residents as to how the grant can be applied for.

At the Arncott Parish Council meeting held on the evening of Tuesday 4th April 2017 it was unanimously agreed by the Council to formally ask CDC to progress section 7.0 option 2 of the draft report. The Parish Council would also be grateful if the alternative idea regarding sites B and C could be considered as a possibility.

Site A – Recommended for conversion

As stated in the report, site A is already designated as a car parking location. However, far from being unpopular and disused, the car park is regularly used by local residents on a daily basis.



One resident who lives very close to this car park has a disabled son. Because the cars are often parked quite close together it is sometimes very difficult for her to help her son get out of the car as she is unable to open her car doors very wide. She has requested that a disabled parking bay be marked out in the corner thus ;



It has also been mentioned that same corner of the car park does not drain very well during and after rainy weather. There is a storm drain in the path very near to that corner of the car park so perhaps something could be done to allow the water to drain away from the car park and into the storm drain.

There are four un-roadworthy cars occupying parking spaces within this car park. These cars have not been used for many years and need to be removed to a scrap yard. They are taking up valuable car parking spaces that could be used by local residents.



Sites B & C – Not recommended for conversion

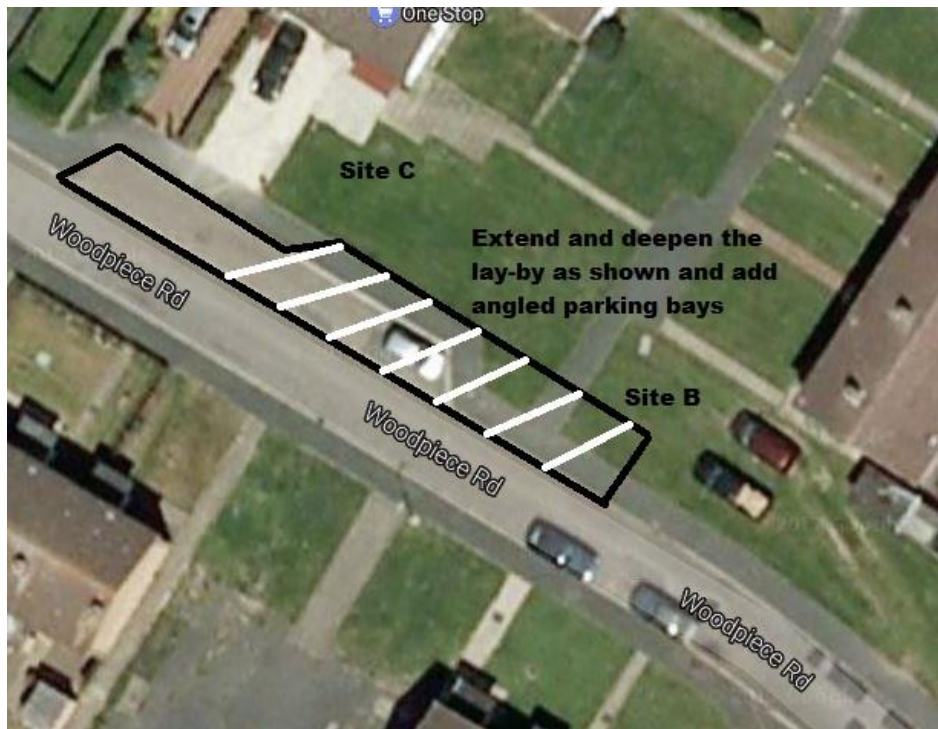
Residents expressed their disappointment that these two sites have been considered as not suitable for conversion into car parking spaces. This part of Woodpiece Road gets very congested and it is felt that car parking spaces here would alleviate the bottlenecks that regularly occur. The lay-by in front of the One Stop shop is not very big and can accommodate about five cars at best. However, a large part of the lay-by cannot be used for any length of time as cars parked there block the exit from the shop front and the drive of the house next to the shop. When the lay-by is full, people arriving by car to go to the shop have to park on the road adjacent to the cars in the lay-by. If cars are also parked on the opposite side of the road it is not possible to drive up the road until the shop's customers get back in their cars and drive off. If the lay-by is full then lorries delivering goods to the shop also park on the road adjacent to the lay-by. Again, no-one can drive past until the lorries are gone.



If the lay-by is full when people arrive by car to go to the shop they also park half on the pavement and half on the road. This results in the grass verge being cut up and deep holes being formed.



A Woodpiece Road resident who attended the meeting suggested that perhaps the existing lay-by next to site C outside of the One Stop shop could be extended further up the road into site B. If the lay-by could be lengthened and deepened then cars could turn off the road and park at an angle. The footpath could be re-routed around the outside of the new lay-by profile so that pedestrians do not have to cross the parking bays.



Part of the grassed area on site B has been used as a car park for some considerable time and the consequences can be seen in the pictures below ;

