






Anti-social behaviour - Motorists driving over Wood Street Village Green				
Date email received	Comments - For posts	WSVA comments	Comments - Against posts	Photos
09/10/2023	<p>I wanted to get in touch to let you know that, unfortunately, the issue of vehicles driving on the green has begun again as the darker evenings draw in. There have been vehicle tracks across the green on the last couple of mornings - while I have not personally witnessed the vehicles in question, I think they have been on the green for both the last two evenings.</p> <p>Fortunately, the damage is minimal as the weather has been so dry recently. However, the tracks are extensive - in more usual October weather, this would have led to significant and widespread damage to the green.</p> <p>The green is being used much more frequently by the local community, especially now that the grass is being mown more regularly. There have been groups of children playing football on the green every evening over the last few weeks - it is great to see this amenity being widely used and appreciated. In this context, it would be a real shame if it were covered in ruts, making it difficult / unsafe for the children to play on - as has happened in previous years.</p> <p>I would be grateful if this issue could remain a priority for the council to address, as it is both unsafe and disruptive to the village community.</p>			
	<p>Just to let you know, there have been further issues with vehicle(s) on the green - see attached photo. This would have taken place in the latter half of last week - we have been away for a few days, so I can't say exactly when.</p>			
30/10/2023	<p>Thanks for the advice.</p> <p>Where I have witnessed such activity, I have reported it, but in practice is hard to spot at the time, so is usually spotted the following day. So far as I'm aware, the police will take reports from either a witness or the landowner - therefore I report the matter if I see it happening, and report it to the council if I do not (so that they can report as the landowner).</p> <p>I have in the past provided a photo of a registration number to both the council and the police, but I am not aware that any action was taken by either party.</p> <p>It is a shame that this behaviour continues to blight the village. This particular issue does not take place in most neighbouring villages, as the greens are protected, for example by the discrete wooden posts in Pirbright.</p>			 
20/11/2023	<p>There have been at least two incursions on the village green over the weekend.</p> <p>- On Saturday night (I assume), a vehicle drove on the side of the green nearest the main road - there were tyre tracks visible on Sunday morning. I didn't witness the incident.</p> <p>- On Sunday night, at about 23:00, I saw a vehicle driving across the green and leaving opposite the road towards the White Hart, before driving back towards Guildford. It was far too far away to read the registration, though I did note that it has a noisy modified exhaust, and was missing its nearside tail-light.</p> <p>There are tyre tracks in various locations of the green - it is impossible to say specifically which incident caused them, as there have been several incidents over the past week or two.</p> <p>I have reported the latter incident to the police as I witnessed it. I trust that you will be able to report the former as the land owner/operator.</p>			
30/11/2023	<p>There was another instance of a vehicle in driving on the green last night (based on the tracks visible this morning).</p>			
02/12/2023	<p>There are again fresh tracks on the green this morning.</p>			
06/12/2023	<p>There are fresh tracks on the green again those morning.</p> <p>I hope that you appreciate how frustrating this is for many of us who live around the green, as well as how dangerous this behaviour can be.</p> <p>Virtually every other similar area of green space in villages in Surrey is protected from such behaviour by some form of barrier - most commonly small wooden posts as installed in Pirbright. These are simple to install, have no negative impact and immediately put a stop to such behaviour (as well as protecting against traveller incursions).</p> <p>This issue continues to crop up each year, and there have been cars on the green several times per week over the past month. This isn't going to go away by itself, and if left unaddressed will lead either to the green being seriously damaged (as happened a few years ago, when the ruts were visible for 6 months), or a serious accident (for which the council would risk liability, having knowingly tolerated this activity).</p>			
08/12/2023	<p>There are yet more tracks on the green this morning.</p>			

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08/12/2023	<p>There have been multiple vehicles driving onto the village green, which is causing harm to the green itself and posing significant safety risks. Of particular concern is that these vehicles often operate without their lights on, which is especially dangerous given the dark nature of our village.</p> <p>The extent of the damage caused by the incident last night is quite severe, not to mention the extreme danger it posed. It has come to my attention that the individuals responsible for these actions were even filming their actions, raising questions about the effectiveness of our current policy or lack thereof, in addressing this anti-social behaviour.</p>			
08/12/2023	<p>(Cllr KW response) Gaynor will reply, as the Village Green is managed by Worplesdon Parish Council. But I recall that when the Parish Council asked for residents views a majority did not want either Street lighting, or to have the green enclosed with physical restrictions such as bollards.</p> <p>Regarding SCC, the Council will consider any request for new street lighting, but with the caveat that all new installations have to be financed other than through SCC whose budget is fully allocated.</p>			
08/12/2023	<p>Thanks Keith for the quick response.</p> <p>I would only add at this point that I fully support James' request below. My reasoning for this has not changed since December last year, and is therefore set out in detail within the email chain below. It is also clear that the joyriding has become far worse over this past year and thus the resulting danger to children and other residents has only increased.</p>			
08/12/2023	<p>Thanks for the reply Keith; preventing the anti-social behaviour would be a great start.</p> <p>What would you suggest we do next - I don't feel that WPC see anti-social behaviour as an issue.</p>			
08/12/2023	<p>(Cllr Cllr K Witham response) Hello 'X', Anti Social Behaviour needs to be reported to the Police, with a log kept of the incidents.</p>			
08/12/2023	<p>Hi Keith. Thanks for this.</p> <p>I believe this has been suggested before but without number plates it's a non-starter.</p>			
08/12/2023	<p>Clerk's response: Thank you for your recent emails concerning the ongoing issue with anti-social behaviour on Wood Street Village Green.</p> <p>I have added an item to the agenda of next week's Full Council meeting (see attached). You are, of course, very welcome to attend the meeting and to address the Parish Council during the public presentation session of the meeting.</p> <p>I will let you know the Council's decision as soon as practicable following the meeting.</p>			
11/12/2023	<p>Thanks for the email.</p> <p>It would be appreciated if you could send us the action plan following the meeting so we are all informed.</p>			
11/12/2023	<p>My apologies Gaynor, the streetlights and the anti-social behaviour / damage to the green can be separated.</p> <p>Please update your agenda point to remove the references to street lights so as not to confuse the issue.</p> <p>I am hopeful, you still have the costs for the 'Pirbright-style</p>			

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12/12/2023			<p>I've just attended a wood street village association meeting at which it was informed that the council was going to address emails from certain village residents who wanted posts etc. around the village green and street lighting.</p> <p>I thought this had been objected to and put to bed.?</p> <p>Yes, there has been this last week a car damaging the green, As Robert Grimmond said, it's not serious.</p> <p>It is annoying to us all, but it has happened for all the years we have been here (38 years) and it is not a serious issue and any repairs have been a very minor cost.</p> <p>Regarding Lights. These newcomers to the village have come from London Suburbs where they are used to light pollution.</p> <p>We appreciate that the rural village darkness allows the lack of light pollution both for us but also for nature. When we moved in, we used to hear Nightingales singing down the lane.</p> <p>The more light pollution we have the more we become a rural town devoid of nature.</p> <p>I am sorry that the new residents of the village from London's suburbs don't yet appreciate the benefits of the village that they have moved to with their family & children.</p> <p>Perhaps they will learn over time.</p> <p>I understand that Alex will be sending an email with the agreement of the wood street village association agreeing to my sentiments that I hope will finish this issue.</p>	
12/12/2023		<p>Thanks for the update, appreciated. Can I just check, how many requests have you had to reconsider the bollards / lighting question for WSV Green? And is the case being made for any particular reason other than it looks messy and shouldn't be happening?</p>		
12/12/2023		<p>There was a discussion at the WSVA meeting this evening about damage to the village green from joy riders driving across it; and the possibility of erecting posts being erected around the perimeter and lighting installed as deterrents.</p> <p>There is not time to conduct another consultation ahead of the Parish Council meeting on Thursday; when we asked people about it a year ago, the majority did not favour the creation of a physical barrier, and there was strong opposition to the idea of street lighting. It was acknowledged at our meeting this evening that damage to the green was irritating and frustrating, but also not especially difficult or expensive to remedy. The consensus amongst those present remained in line with last year's survey that nether posts/bollards nor lights would be appropriate.</p>		
12/12/2023			<p>I have just attended a zoom meeting of the Wood Street Village this evening and understand from Paul Cragg that there is a Parish Council meeting this coming Thursday evening and one of the items to be discussed is street lighting and "fencing".</p> <p>My parents moved to the village in 1939 and I have always lived in the village. My daughter and her young family also live here. I wish to state that I am strongly opposed to both street lighting and any type of fencing around the village green. Unfortunately newcomers, mainly, try to change things. I would stress that Wood Street Village is perfect for those wishing to enjoy country life. Without lights, nighttime is perfect for those wishing to appreciate clear starry nights and country sounds of animals and birds. All this would disappear with lighting. Please let the village stay as it is. Any damage to the green, although annoying, can be remedied at far less cost than unsightly posts, etc, which would not stop horses, motor bikes, etc. from causing damage.</p>	

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12/12/2023			<p>Having lived in the village for almost 40 years, I feel one of the most attractive features is the simple open green and historic May Pole together with adjacent pond.</p> <p>Whilst there have over those years been some examples of vandalism / damage to the grass on the green by an occasional car driven over it in the winter period, the damage is usually self healing - come spring. The suggestion of posts around the full perimeter of the green would be visually intrusive changing its visual character and extremely expensive to install. If timber - there will certainly be a long term maintenance commitment. I am therefore totally opposed to any change.</p> <p>It is my belief if a driver is intent upon damaging the Green - a barrier will see it as a challenge to still get on.</p> <p>I understand that once again the subject of street lighting is being requested by a few residents.</p> <p>Lack of street lighting is also a significant component of the Village character and its charm.</p> <p>Everyone who lives here, all moved into the village in the knowledge that there was no street lighting.</p> <p>If it was such an issue, why move here in the first place, They could logically move back to suburbia.</p> <p>Light pollution is a significant environmental concern affecting wildlife particularly in a rural setting. Adding more lights and lamps exacerbate the problem and also will be just another visual intrusion in this attractive village.</p> <p>The financial installation cost and long term running cost is similarly going to be very expensive and totally unjustified for the minority seeking change. I am therefore totally opposed to any change in this also.</p>	
12/12/2023			<p>Having taken part in the zoom meeting of WSVA tonight we gather from Paul Cragg that the Worplesdon Parish Council meeting for this coming Thursday will have the above subject on their agenda again with reference to damage on The Green from cars and horses etc.</p> <p>We understand that various residents still wish to have street lighting and posts surrounding the area (all at vast costs) in an effort to stop this vandalism!</p> <p>Sadly we don't think this would achieve their goal and would be very detrimental to the ambiance of a rural village Green. We don't think that posts would stop motor bikes, horses/traps and quad bikes etc....</p> <p>Of course the vandalism is very unsightly, but as I expect you remember (in the pouring rain) a good number of us soon improved the ruts by treading in the turf, which although exceedingly annoying, was a fairly quick and very inexpensive way of improving the damage at that time.....</p> <p>I spent time again yesterday (Sunday) in treading and improving some of the latest damage, yes it is infuriating and it is a pity that no one seems to catch the culprits, but we still do not want street lights or posts and think we should leave well alone please.</p> <p>As always...thank you, and Victoria, for your continued hard work for the parish and our very best wishes for a happy Christmas and New Year!</p>	