

Meeting with Hill Meadow residents regarding Parking concerns

9.8.17 Village Hall, Barrack Hill, Coleshill 7pm.

Present: Cllrs: Terence Prideaux (TPx), Carol Hallchurch (CH), Jon Herbert (JH), Mary Pollock (MP)-
Coleshill Parish Council

Cllr: Tim Butcher (BCC)

Cllr: Julie Burton (CDC)

Andy Jones – Bucks Fire Service- Amersham Station

PCSOs- Oliver Hughes & - Thames Valley Police

Representatives from 14 Hill Meadow properties

Clerk of the Council - Lynda Jackson

Apologises: Paradigm Housing

Terence Prideaux welcomed everyone to the meeting which had been arranged at the request of a number of Hill Meadow residents by the Parish Council.

He introduced the representatives from Bucks County Council, Chiltern District Council, Thames Valley Police & Bucks Fire Service.

TPx gave a timeline summary of how the meeting had come about starting in autumn 2015 when a young resident drew his attention to speeding in the village. From this the Parish Council arranged for a speed watch exercise which was supported by PC Nicky Upton. At the time of the speed watch PC Upton drew attention to the illegal parking at the junction of Hill Meadow and New Road pointing out that it was illegal to park within 10 metres of a junction as per the Road Traffic Act of 1988 and the impact it was having on anyone approaching the junction or exiting Hill Meadow.

TPx contacted Paradigm Housing in March 2016 to discuss the issue and to engage with them on a possible solution. TPx expressed his disappointment that until yesterday someone from Paradigm was going to attend the meeting but at the last minute pulled out.

In the summer of 2016 TPx arranged to meet with Paul Hodson from Bucks County Council to try and find a solution. A suggestion was made to put down grasscrete on the amenity land in the centre of Hill Meadow. A costing was supplied- **£32991**, this would create a maximum of 6 extra parking spaces. This suggestion was discussed with Paradigm who were not in a position to make available funds for such a scheme, they also thought changing the amenity land was not possible as change of use would compromise the terms of the conveyancing documents of freeholders.

A costing was requested for yellow lines at the junction on Hill Meadow the amount supplied by Transport for Bucks was **£7777**.

In March this year the parish council looked again at installing bollards around the green areas at the junction of Hill Meadow the cost from Transport for Bucks was **£12463**.

In April this year the Parish Council wrote again to Paradigm Housing urging them to do something the result was that a letter was sent by them, without the Council's knowledge, to their tenants only.

The result of the letter from Paradigm was that this meeting was arranged at the residents request to try and solve the problem.

PCSO Hughes explained that the junction is the main issue for them, he had checked before attending the meeting and it wasn't too bad but he has seen it previously in a very dangerous position. PCSO Hughes was concerned that a Fire Engine would struggle to get through in the case of a fire at both ends of Hill Meadow. He went on to say it would be easy to issue £30 tickets but that is not the answer. The answer lies with the residents being sensible and considerate.

Andy Jones from the Fire Service had also visited Hill Meadow and said that evening it was not such a problem but he has seen it before when it has been extremely chaotic. There is no legislation at present that would cover the current situation in Hill Meadow but if there was a serious incident then legislation would follow.

Andy suggested that 'Approved documents B vol.1' should be read as that gives the requirement for new builds for fire service access and is a tool for what needs to be considered for Hill Meadow. A fire engine requires 3.1 metres to get through, it needs 3.7 metres to operate. The answer to the current problems lies with the residents, usually the person making the most complaints is the person who is causing a problem. You can put signs up but residents must work together to be considerate. Andy stressed you must **not park on a fire hydrant**. Andy spoke of a fire he attended 15-20 years ago in Hill Meadow there was not an issue with access at the time but today is different with the number of vehicles households have.

Andy advised that to get access cars are not rammed out of the way but with police help they may be bumped aside but stressed automatic cars are an issue. He encouraged residents to park on one side of the road.

A question was raised about the weekly waste collection how do they manage, a resident advised they have a rear axle steer. TPx advised that a lot of damage is done at the entrance to Hill Meadow by the waste vehicle as it is continually having to mount the kerb and drive over the grassed areas to avoid parked cars at the junction.

TPx thanked Andy and PCSO Hughes for their input.

Questions were then opened up to the floor:

Q- Has anyone looked into the cost of dropped kerbs?

Cllr Burton reassured the meeting that she was going to speak to Paradigm Housing at a high level.

Q- The designated amenity land why is that needed there is already a safe play area for children to use

There were answers from the floor that Paradigm regularly ticket residents who park on the patch of land, many in the room had received letters.

Q- Why not go ahead with yellow lines

TPx advised that the parish council were concerned about the cost as they could not fund their application, also when would they be policed the problem is at weekends and evenings when it is unlikely that traffic wardens work.

A resident thought that yellow lines would just cause problems elsewhere either within the village or further into Hill Meadow.

PCSO Hughes advised that yellow lines are the responsibility of Bucks County Council.

Q- Some residents have front gardens that are not used and that opening them up could create up to 2 extra spaces.

Cllr Burton suggested that the HS2 Community Fund might pay for a parking solution.

TPx explained the HS2 fund and that any application that will alleviate disruption would be looked on favourably.

Q- Could the strip of land on Village Road not be extended (unofficial parking area?)

TPx advised he had already approached the County Council with that idea but they had rejected it as it would be too costly and only generate 3 extra spaces max.

TPx advised he had also spoken to Paradigm about the large garden space at no's: 30 & 31 could some be turned over to parking but they had refused.

Q- There is a strip between Kim & Graham Thorne that could be modified.

At this point in the meeting Andy Jones interrupted the questions and advised this current problem is only going to get worse you should be looking at the long term not short term solution. He suggested going to have a look at Drakes Road in Amersham where the layout has created more parking bays. You could widen the road by taking a metre off each garden.

Q- Every resident should be allocated 2 spaces which should be enough.

TPx confirmed at present every house does have 2 spaces but a number of residences have a lot more vehicles than 2 plus there are also visitors to Hill Meadow.

Q- Why can't every vehicle be parked sensibly within a designated bay or by the garages. The road should be marked out. Currently the triangle area is being blocked by visitors there should be a number of marked out visitor spaces. Within the area there should be clearly marked signs `DO NOT PARK HERE`

Q- Visitors should have a marked area and all residents should ensure their visitors keep to those spaces.

One resident raised the issue that if it was down to money they could not see a way forward.

TPx advised the meeting that Paradigm Housing had a £21m surplus last year.

Cllr. Carol Hallchurch thanked all the residents for coming up with positive solutions and that safety was the main issue that had to be addressed.

Q- All residents must put pressure on Paradigm Housing individually and collectively if anything is to be done to improve the current situation.

Cllr. Jon Herbert asked the residents if there were any vehicles in Hill Meadow that did not move, the response was that there were a few.

Q- If Paradigm asked us to give up our front gardens and converted them to driveways it would make a huge difference.

Q- There is an area beyond the garages which if cleared and hard-core put down would allow up to 6 cars to be parked. The reference was to land believed to be owned by David Gardiner.

Q- Could there not be a `NO THROUGH ROAD` sign placed at the entrance to Hill Meadow as a number of vehicles drive up at speed thinking it is a short cut through.

There was a majority response in favour to this request but that it should also warn children playing.

Q- Can Hill Meadow have a speed restriction of 10 mph as too many vehicles speed up at more than double that especially delivery vehicles.

Residents speed as well- I have had my vehicle damaged 8 times

TPx thanked everyone for attending and that a copy of the notes from the meeting would be put on the Council's website.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Summary of suggestions from Residents

1. Get Paradigm Housing involved at senior level with reference to Approved documents B.vol.1. Get engagement for a long term solution.
2. Designated amenity land- ask for change of use there is already a safe play area
3. Yellow lines within 10 metres of Hill Meadow junction
4. No yellow lines within 10 metres of Hill Meadow junction
5. Open up front gardens as parking bays
6. Mark road out and garage area with designated parking bays
7. Have an area for visitors parking only
8. Tell each other if they are not parking appropriately
9. `Do not park here` signage
10. All residents to put pressure on Paradigm Housing individually and collectively to do something to improve the safety of residents by providing an improved parking solution
11. Those cars that do not move to be moved.
12. `No through road sign, children playing`
13. 10 mph speed limit
14. Area beyond garages to be cleared and prepared for parking