

Dear all

I've had sight of the notes from the Public Meeting about the parking problems in Newtown. May I highlight two important points that were commented on in the meeting are not in the notes, please can these be included before the minutes are issued.

1. Peter from the Park Trust said when the ground is particularly wet the Trust decides to restrict the number of visitors so that the Parks natural environment isn't damaged by too much footfall. This is one of the reasons why the overflow car park isn't always opened.

Peter has mentioned this point to myself in previous emails so I was really pleased that he highlighted this point in the meeting but it seems to have been overlooked. I think not opening either of the overflows is a major contributing factor in the wetter months when the village is swamped with vehicles, especially when we have a dry day just after a spell of wet weather. This is why the enforcement of parking restrictions need to be improved and they need to be tailored more to the weather and ground conditions, maybe the Trust could liaise more with the council on a weekly basis about this.

2. Denise from the council commented that the council could reschedule Parking Enforcement Officers depending on the forecasted weather to target Newtown Linford when the park was more likely to be busy.

Although I'm pleased Denise made this comment I was very surprised as in previous emails to the council I've been advised that for some unknown reason the council is not able to use weather forecasts and change its schedule if appropriate a few days before.

As everyone knows the weather plays a massive part in when the park will be busy or not, I appreciate it can still be busy on some grey cold days but when it's raining for example visitor numbers can really drop.

I believe it needs to be noted that suggestions of finding other areas to park would work in the drier months but as mentioned above due to the Parks natural environment wouldn't work in wetter months.

To conclude I think these 2 points that were mentioned in the meeting are really important to the parking problems and shouldn't be overlooked and therefore they need to be included in the meeting minutes.

I look forward to hearing your comments

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Richard Palmer