

I believe all present here tonight would agree without equivocation that:-

(i) There is and has for some time been a problem regarding the parking of vehicles in the village some of which is illegal parking, some inconsiderate to the access needs of residents and that the extent of such parking is a source of danger to road users and pedestrians using the public footpaths and that furthermore the situation has been continually getting worse and will continue to do so.

(ii) That by far the major cause of such parking is the desire of visitors to the park to avoid paying the parks parking charges.

I consider that in the present financial climate the park has no option but to impose charges to provide funds it needs to manage the park. I take the view that the amount of the present parking charges has little if any bearing on the desire to avoid payment.

Proposals presumably to resolve or at least alleviate these problems are to put additional double yellow lines along Bradgate Road and Grey Crescent. Presumably the thought behind such proposals must be that by doing so either the problem will be resolved or it will be reduced. In my opinion that is a thought based upon totally false presumptions. People are not going to stop coming or come in less numbers because of these proposed restrictions. It seems to me patently obvious that people will still come in at least if not greater numbers, that their desire to avoid parking charges will not dissipate with the to me patently obvious result that they will park more in other areas and that must mean in Main Street and Markfield Lane. My view is reinforced by the lessons of history because that is precisely what happened when parking restrictions were imposed in Groby Lane and parts of Main Street.

I believe and venture to suggest the topography of both Main Street and Markfield Lane is such that such parking will be even more inconsiderate of the needs of residents and a greater source of danger to other road users and pedestrians. Put it another way it is my belief that the imposition of such proposals would cause a far worse scenario from all points of view than now exist.

I know I am not alone in believing that what is needed is a comprehensive review of the whole situation and not a piecemeal approach. I understand that The Highway Authority itself admits that a piecemeal approach (such as the present proposals are) will only serve to move the problem to elsewhere in the village.

I believe the Highway Authority have stated that a comprehensive review would typically cost between £30000 and £50000. Given that neither that Authority nor any other has the funds or is willing to raise the funds to commission such a review that is clearly a non-starter but given the concern of all villagers (whatever their view as to the present proposals may be) cannot a committee of residents from all areas of the village be formed (perhaps but not necessarily) under the auspices of the Parish Council to look into all aspects of the problems and viable solutions including inviting all residents and owners of businesses and organisations in the village to submit proposals (easily done through the magazine) and to produce a report and appropriate recommendations for further consideration.

As I understand it no part of the three car parks or at least no part of the car parking area at the main street entrance for the park form any part of the land given by Bennion and that is why the park are able to charge for parking. If that is correct why cannot they also charge for pedestrians who have not alighted from a vehicle that has paid to park. Say just a nominal 1 pound would I believe raise considerable funds for the park and at the same time deter many people from parking as they do to avoid the parking charges. It could easily be enforced by for example charging as they leave the park through the pedestrian gates. Maybe it would not be popular but then neither was the parking charge.

Alternatively scrap parking charges altogether and just charge all pedestrians to cross the car parks. With one stroke this would move most cars back into the car parks and at the same time generate more funds for the park than at present.

I am assuming that the park is legally correct in its view that it cannot charge for entry to the park as such although I have not been able to find either from the parks own website or from the Charity Commissions file for the park any

definitive authority for that view nor have I been able to obtain copies of the Scheme of 4 September 1980 nor the resolutions amending the same dated 8 December 2008 and 8 September 2014 which now govern and regulate the Charity. I would be greatly obliged if the Parks director could send me copies of such scheme and resolutions.

Finally, may I make it clear that my comments do not apply to the proposed no loading restrictions which I regard as extremely apposite and which consequently I support although they in themselves will of course put more pressure for parking on other areas.