

Hovingham Village Car Park

The Car Park is an asset of the village shared by residents, users of the Village Hall, visitors to Hovingham, walkers and host to the monthly Village Market. There is also a recycling area, gas storage tank, Market storage shed and a commercial waste bin in the Car Park.

The Car Park land is owned by the Parish Council (PC) and there is an agreement between the Village Hall Management Committee (HVHMC) and the PC to share the responsibility for its maintenance. There is a collection box for voluntary donations for users of the Car Park; funds collected are held by the PC for the sole purpose of maintaining the Car Park. Following the recent replacement of a manhole cover (£118) the current balance is £1,074.97. Annual donations are normally between £400 and £500.

Non-availability of the Car Park would be an inconvenience to those parking vehicles there however, it would have a very serious impact on the monthly Market. The impact would be on its reputation, practical and financial (£3,000+) should the Market have to cancel if it is not available, or the impact of localised flooding closing part of the Car Park. The Market have long-term alternatives however, none are available in the short or medium term and it is questionable whether there would be sufficient support for a move.

There are a number of issues outstanding in the Car Park:

a) **Village Hall Wall - In Progress**

The wall to Main Street is scheduled to be restored following the July Market. Jointly financed by VHMC, Parish Council and AONB. Update 5th July: this restoration now to take place mid-August.

b) **Manhole Covers - Propose: pay for first one (£98+£20 materials & labour), purchase 3 more (£294) and arrange installation (£90 materials & labour) when convenient**

There are four manholes around the Car Park. They are too small for the hole below and the most serious one was replaced urgently. One of the remaining three is a hazard, the other two are in lightly trafficked areas.

c) **Recycling Area - Propose: discussion with Action Group to take care of**

The fence around recycling area is damaged and needs repairing. A jet washer will be used to clean the bins.

d) **Surface Drainage - Propose: annually clean drainage gravel with Market volunteers to replace**

The Car Park is unable to handle significant rainfall following the installation of a non-porous surface; it is improved by a drainage ditch which needs annual cleaning of the gravel to remain effective. A downpour on the Friday prior, or on the Saturday of, a Market has the greatest impact. The puddles created can be cleared if time allows and there is an electric pump to also help in these situations.

e) **Electricity - Propose: approve in principle subject to plans from Market Group**

There are already special outdoor electricity sockets in front of the kitchen window and by the old Bowls Pavilion, used primarily by the Market. Additional sockets by the gents toilet outdoor door and in the Market shed would avoid trailing or aerial electric cables during the Market.

f) **Weedkilling - Propose: approve annual weed killing (£50)**

Currently at least once a year, the boundary between the building and car park needs weed control.

g) **Old Bowls Pavilion Area - Awaiting Proposal**

The area previously occupied by the Bowls Pavilion is surfaced using gravel of large pieces, this is not flat and is uncomfortable to walk on. It should be replaced by finer gravel or smooth surface.

h) **Old Market Shed "Waste" Area - Awaiting Proposal**

The area previously occupied by the Market Shed was not relayed and weed growth, plus the accumulation of other detritus, leads to this becoming unsightly. Annual weed killing is currently undertaken around the perimeter of the Village Hall.

i) **Donation Collection Box**

The box is not used (or seen) by many users. The box painting and signage to be reviewed.

j) **Anything else ?** Resurfacing the whole Car Park again has been suggested, the cost estimates are way beyond the current financial resources of the village and all proposals lack any guarantee to improve the drainage. The current surface is pretty good, with just the old Bowls Pavilion and Waste Area needing attention.