

# Chiseldon Parish Council



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## 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 EGPA meeting , additional information

### Item 7. Stouds Hill. Feedback on seating area from residents consultation:

All responses received are below. I have highlighted them red or green depending on whether for or against the proposal.

With reference to your letter on behalf of the Parish Council dated 8th April 2019, we are opposed to the introduction of seating on the Green.

We recall that seating was present on the Green some years ago, and it proved to be something of a magnet for low grade antisocial behaviour. In particular a large amount of litter was created which ended up being strewn all over the Green. We appreciate that the proposal includes provision for a bin, but in our experience installation of a bin does not automatically ensure that it will be used by those who create the litter.

Thanks for contacting me regarding the seating area project at Strouds Hill green.

I would like to suggest the following option: Option C (Multiple benches in different locations). For the locations I would suggest to put the benches at periphery, but not close to the houses to keep privacy of residents.

Wooden benches would be more suited to the overall environment with the closeness of the woods.

I would also add extra bin(s) next to the parking area (the largest parking).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for the letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> April in relation to the proposed seating area on the green opposite our house.

We strongly object to having any type of seating area on the green. One of the reasons why we bought 'redacted' was because of the quietness of the road and the view of the green.

Currently the green is mostly used by dog walkers (most pick up after their dogs, some don't !)

Whilst we are sure some would enjoy a bench we do not believe that these dog walkers would be the main group to use it. We believe it would encourage groups of youths to congregate, play

loud music and leave their rubbish around the bench area as it is well known that even if bins are available they won't be used. The police hardly ever patrol in Chiseldon and when they do it's just the main roads so this seating area is likely to become the 'meeting place' out of the sight of others.

We are sorry if this is not public spirited but we enjoy the peace and quiet that the green at Stroud's Hill currently is.

Regards

As residents who live in the vicinity of Strouds Green, our chosen option is D - No seating. Our decision is based on previous seating in the area of Strouds Green that proved to be problematic over a period of time 2006/09 resulting in the removal of the seating arrangement that formed part of the commemorative stone on Strouds Green and the decision by the owners of Landmark to remove the bench that was situated where the current black bin is located. The problem behaviour was caused, sadly, by a group of young people whose anti-social behaviour became intolerable, involving alcohol consumption, noise, abusive behaviour and litter as well as the perceived threat felt by many passers-by. Occasional police intervention at that time proved ineffective, indeed served to provoke further anti-social behaviour.

We are also mindful that the Strouds Green area currently has two potential 'disruptors' - the shop and car park - which are, at times, perceived as intrusive by local residents in terms of their impact, including litter and noise disturbance which have an immediate impact on the quality of life experienced by local residents. In this respect, the previous seating also affected the confidence of local residents in using the car park. The prospect of seating in/around Strouds Green would only have a negative impact on local residents. In this respect, as well as dealing with the reality of any such anti-social behaviour we should not underestimate how the anticipation of problematic issues will also have a deleterious impact upon residents quality of life in their own homes.

Clearly, any decision made by the Parish Council in relation to community facilities should also ensure that due regard is given to the principle of community safety and acknowledge any relevant history.

From a Neighbourhood Watch perspective, we are aware that the current bench-seating arrangement close to residential properties on Badbury Park has proven problematic in terms of anti-social behaviour with negative consequences for local residents.

We believe the provision of seating in the Strouds Green area would also have a negative impact on the lives of local residents and for the reasons outlined above choose Option D - No Seating.

We would be grateful for confirmation of our response.

Thank-you...

Our thoughts would be to replace a seat to where it was removed from some while ago.

With regard to the above proposal and as a resident of Strouds Hill, I **strongly object** to any bench / benches / bins etc being placed anywhere on or near Strouds Hill Green.

I believe a bench would attract antisocial behaviour and litter. I appreciate the green should be enjoyed by all however I reside right on the edge of the green and would have to permanently live with further noise, mess and, not only, an unsightly seating area right outside my window, but my privacy in my own home and going about my daily business could be compromised.

If there is a budget for 'improvement', perhaps consider bicycle barriers on the path into the nature reserve. I cannot count the times I have had to gingerly step from my front door onto the path avoiding speeding bicycles that whizz past with clearly no thought to pedestrians.

Currently the noise level from the green is bearable. It is a popular dog walking area and cut through - however all noise from the green is amplified due to the lay out of the green and street. A seating area would no doubt encourage more noise, more dogs, more barking, more ASB, more cigarette butts.

The green should be preserved as an open space without ugly clutter and free from the ever encroaching human sprawl.

Thank you,

Thank you for the circular letter we received today regarding proposed seating in Strouds Hill.

Our view is that the drawbacks would unfortunately outweigh the benefits. We fear that it would be a magnet for anti social behaviour, including drug and alcohol abuse, littering and noise pollution.

Such a shame, as otherwise, it is a lovely idea.

Best wishes,

As per your Facebook invitation, I think the idea of a seating area on the green at strouds Hill is a very positive one. I love the idea of being able to sit down to watch my children play football on the green and even take a picnic with us.

I do appreciate however that those nearest residents may have concerns about such an area attracting groups of youths of an evening. However I believe this should not be too much of an issue as it is very open and visible so youngsters wanting to get up to mischief will tend to find more secluded areas.

Hope this helps

With reference to the post on Facebook about the Parish Councils idea to place seating at Strouds Green, I strongly disagree with the proposal.

The best thing the Parish Council ever did (when I was on it) was to remove the bench on the corner of Mays Lane and Station Road, on grass by Landmark Hotel. Previous to this the bench used to be a congregation point for youths of the village and to the best of my knowledge having grown up in the village for most of my life the area with seating used to encourage anti social behaviour and generally be a less so desirable area of the village to visit, in fact I used to avoid the area altogether.

Whether the bench is reinstated where it was or indeed another position within the area, I feel it will long term create an eyesore where antisocial behaviour may then occur certainly during evenings/weekends and be unpleasant for other residents in the village.

Kind regards,

Morning , I strongly disagree with any kind of seating positioned at Strouds Hill. When the weather is nice there are already groups of youths with loud music , shouting and swearing which gather . This is not nice for our children to hear when they are playing in their own garden . I do not want to see / hear this increase by adding seating and making it more accessible for them to stay longer .

Thanks

Thank-you for your correspondence ref. the above.

Unfortunately where ever I have lived , seating areas become a magnet for anti -social behaviour , with groups congregating . I feel that due to its proximity to the shop, plenty of snacks, alcohol etc this would quickly be the case here in this part of Chiseldon. So I would say no seats at all. I would not envy those residents who live directly within view of the green.

The idea of seating sounds lovely but in reality , once it becomes “owned” , it deters decent people from just sitting and enjoying the air as it were.

To enhance the whole area of Stroud’s Green /High Street/ as I have suggested before , good maintenance of the overgrown trees and hedges. Modernise and increase the size of the car park and some planting of smaller shrubs / tree’s on the green itself.

It is a small area which could be greatly improved , the information about Chiseldon is a great start. Washpool is fantastic too, I often daydream about the shop having an area with tables and chairs for tea and coffee. The chairs would be taken in by the shop and they would “police it” as it were.

I’m afraid I sound cynical and perhaps I am but benches and bins , thumbs down 👎 here.

Yours sincerely

Dear Clair

Some seats and bins seem a good idea to me. It would give both older and younger people space to meet up together. I think at least two seating areas and at least one litter bin and could I suggest also a dog waste bin. Several dog walkers seem to go past this green area.

My option would be (D) No seating.

My reasons behind this is it simply will attract the wrong types to sit down and use it as a littler space and dropping cigarette butts.

Local teenagers will crowd around and sit playing loud music and putting gum etc all over the place.

I have seen this in many areas and also around Europe (mainly Belgium, France, Germany, Holland and people are constantly complaining about the litter and odd characters and loud teenagers it draws in.

In reality it would be great for walkers and old people and couples with children and pets but honestly? I think it will be abused.

I hope all is well with you and the team at the Parish and wishing you all luck in future project.s

I am not in favour of adding seating. Mainly because I feel it would be used by the boys/teenagers who are currently making a mess of the paths that go from the green to Dykes Mews and The Washpool with their building of jumps. It would give them somewhere to sit and probably vandalise and the surrounding houses already have to put up with their mess and their noise. I may be being cynical but I don't feel that families or the elderly would use any seating (especially when school is out) because of the presence of these teenagers and their bikes taking over the area.

Hello.i thought that i would answer the letter put through my door last week.living in the high st.i often frequent the strouds hill /old station area.i am showing my age!

I think the idea of seating is a good idea even in this time of councils being cash strapped.some might argue we should be saving money however it would be a nice idea to allow people to sit and watch the world go by.

As for how many seats i would say two or three.i would also say vandal proof ones too.

As for location.by the end of the landmark hotel overlooking the green.the height gives better views too.

For the elderly this also would be a great place to socialize and to rest the legs.

Thank you for asking our views and i hope this helps you in your decision too

In response to the possibility of introducing a seating area within the Strouds Hill area, whilst I personally can't think of anything more charming,

I can see it just becoming a gathering area for many of the undesirables that we on the Neighbourhood Watch Committee are anxious NOT to

encourage to sit around and drink and do other things in that area that would certainly NOT add to the charm of the area/village.. No doubt Paul

Sunners, Our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, has made the Parish Council aware of the various problems over the years.

Sadly therefore, I would say D) No seating...

Thank you for your letter re the above.

We think it is a nice idea, but cannot help thinking it would attract anti social behaviour. Being a resident on Station Rd there used to be problems down by the spar shop, which seemed to have all got better.

For us we feel it would bring this back and unfortunately, we would therefore choose option d.

Hello Claire,

I think seating would be quite a nice idea. I would think multiple benches one or two in different locations so that groups of people could sit together, unless this would encourage gangs of youths to hang out. My only suggestion would be could they be made of the recyclable material that is plastic cups et cetera for the environment and they wouldn't need painting and would be more sustainable.

Thank you for asking the local residents, much appreciated.

Best wishes

**Item 8. Fly tipping complaint from resident:** Committee to decide on response.

Dear Chiseldon Parish Council Members,

I need your help dealing with residents of Ridgeway View, Aisne Road and possibly Sambre road who are I believe flytipping large quantities of grass cuttings on my verge and farmland in Sambre Road.

This is dreadful behaviour.

The Advertiser recently ran a story about the Ridgeway View flytipping and despite recently delivering polite letters to every household on the estate drawing their attention to the problem, flytipping opposite some of their houses, has continued.

Fresh grass cuttings were dumped today before 6 p.m.

I believe one or more of the residents is cutting their own lawn, the verge in Sambre Road/Aisne Road or the green space owned by Neil Cowley in Aisne Road and deliberately dumping it on my farmland. Having to deal with new and rotted grass feet deep which does not belong to me leaves me with a very poor impression of Chiseldon residents. This division of people maintaining the countryside and residents who are ruining it needs to be tackled. I think you could do many things to help.

Maybe you can provide grass cutting bins beside the open space in Aisne Road at Parish cost to help? This is recycleable waste.

Perhaps the Council could cut Neil Cowley's triangular piece of land and the verges on these roads and take the grass away?

Perhaps you can write to residents reminding them that flytipping waste is an offence and asking them to respect their neighbourhood?

Perhaps you could go and speak to the residents in person?

Every year leaves are also dumped on the verge and farmland. The council could arrange for the roads at Ridgeway View to be swept during Autumn.

I am now preparing to take a Cambrai Road resident to Court for flytipping. I and my Solicitor am close to taking the Cambrai Road residents who have illegally appropriated my land to Court.

I believe the Parish Council really has an obligation to help people deal with persistent flytipping.

I look forward to your prompt response.

### **Item 9. Clothing bin for Scope**

Emailed request received:

A very good afternoon to you Chiseldon Parish Council.

I thought I would get in touch with a really quick email, to see if you might be able to help or steer me in the right direction ?

I'm currently working in association with the Charity Scope, helping to find new locations for, and to further expand their network of textile recycling banks and I thought I would get in touch with you to explore the opportunity of possibly finding new locations in Chiseldon for the public to donate their old clothes, to help support and raise funds for Scope.

The Scope Textile Banks help to raise awareness and to provide a much needed source of income towards ongoing projects which help to make this country a place where disabled people have the same opportunities as everyone else, whilst also helping to reduce landfill and increase the availability of textile recycling facilities for the local residents.

I wondered if you may have any ideas or suggestions on possible suitable locations in Chiseldon ?  
Hoping that you may be able to help ??

I look forward to hearing from you ..

### **Item 11 – Planter Norris Close**

Quote from “A Branch Above” who did the other wooden planters of £105 for a 1 meter wide triangle shape planter filled with soil.

“Supply, construct and install 1 triangular decking planter. In agreed location, concreted in place. Filling with soil and compost ready for planting”

Police visited Norris Close residents to stop vehicles driving on the pavements and green area. Police advised the bollard should be re-placed to stop this. A planter is probably a quicker and more pleasant solution than a bollard from SBC.

SBC confirmed that as land is not on the highway and there is no need for a cultivation licence.

**Item 15 – Rolling car park extension**

Paul Walton advises that:

To be moved to August agenda.

**Item 18 – Gate at SHCMG – budgeted item for 2019/20 of £500.00**

Allbuild have quoted:

To replace pedestrian gate with a metal bow top gate in black with 2 x post

Cost of gate £298.00

Cost to install £150.00

Total Cost £448.00 Plus VAT

iDec have quoted:

Installation of Bow Top Gate and Posts

Existing gate and posts to be removed, holes from existing posts to be filled. New gate posts to be relocated and installed and new gate hung. £120.00

1 Single Leaf Bow Top Gate Fixing Posts Installation Fixings £360.00

Please note, the gate may not be an exact match to the ones already installed. Gate will be black in colour to match existing double gates.

Total £480.00