

Cilcain Community Council Information Notice - Cilcain Parking

The current situation

It has been suggested that Cilcain Community Council does not welcome visitors, but this is not the case. The Community Council represents the communities of Cilcain, Hendre and Rhydymwyn, and deals with service and other issues affecting them. It also tries to balance the differing opinions that residents hold, and take into account visitor needs.

Lack of car parking facilities cause frustration, anger, arguments and disputes in many towns and villages and this has been the case in Cilcain for nearly four decades. The most recent incident in the village car park involved a resident and visitors during the covid pandemic when 'stay local' regulations were in place. Many Cilcain residents were understandably distressed by regulations being ignored at a time when the border between Wales and England was closed.

As covid regulations began to ease, the Community Council requested the County Council to replace faded tourist information signs in the village car park and at Pedair y Groesfford to help visitors establish the location. The Community Council also requested the County Council to replace the forty year old faded car park sign fixed to the bowling green boundary fence and provide traffic direction signs to help drivers locate the Pedair y Groesfford parking facilities.

Flintshire County Council is the responsible authority for Highway matters. At the behest of the Community Council, the County Council established the parking facilities at Pedair y Groesfford some years ago to help ease parking and traffic difficulties in Cilcain village.

Following the recent provision of Highway signs, the Community Council sought clarification from the County Council. Flintshire CC agrees that the car park signs should be bilingual and will deal with this matter. Before this can happen, other related enquiries the Community Council has raised with the County Council also need to be clarified.

Background to the village car park and signage

Cilcain village car park was established in the early 1980s in keeping with community wishes. The Community Council had already purchased the old school premises for use as a village hall in 1979 and secured registration of the Waen field as a village green. The aim was to provide much needed recreational facilities for residents at the centre of the village.

In the early 1980s a majority of Cilcain residents wanted a bowling green and car park established on Community Council land adjacent to the Waen, and funding was secured to make this happen. The village then was less than half the size it is today including several outlying cottages and farmhouses, so a village car park would benefit all members of the community wanting to use the recently established village hall and village green (Waen), and the bowling green facility that was underway.

Restricted use of the car park for community use came about following unpleasant incidents during the early 1980s that upset residents. Incidents like this have continued throughout the following decades, with residents experiencing verbal abuse and threats.

In attempting to ease the parking problems at the centre of the village, the Community Council has continued to explore the possibility of additional parking, but there are difficulties. No land is available within the Village envelope, and other land which might seem suitable is privately owned. Any additional parking facility would require special funding and would be a County Council matter.