

Proposal for a lockable vehicle gate into the Glebe Meadow

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The Issue

The Glebe Meadow is a very important community space for Limpsfield and is regularly used for a variety of activities, including football, children's groups, gym activities and dog walking - and for special events like fetes. The pavilion houses Limpsfield Fitness / wellbeing centre and Panda Nursery is based in a portacabin further down the field

The Glebe meadow and businesses are vulnerable as there is car access right to the front of the pavilion. Pots and hanging baskets have been stolen and young adults gather close to the building to consume illegal drugs. In addition, illegal entrance to the Glebe Meadow is possible as the two loose wooden barriers are very easy to break through.

Interests of LPC

The Objectives of the LNP state that we will
Support the local economy and maintain opportunities for smaller businesses to grow and develop across the Parish

And also
Support the delivery of local services and community facilities in locations which are accessible to the local community.

One of the specific implementation proposals is to '*encourage greater community use of the St Peter's Hall and surrounding area*'.

For these reasons we would like to support St Peter's Church with safety measures to protect the field from vehicular access by undesirable people, and burglary or danger to the businesses. St Peter's Church is supportive of this idea but not able to provide full funding for such measures. CCTV could also be explored.

The rector, Helen Cook, has indicated that St Peter's Church would be able to contribute to the cost of a gate, and would maintain it.

We consulted Lisa Cobby, the PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) who has been to the site several times to support Limpsfield Fitness when there has been antisocial behaviour. Her comment is:

"A gate will help for sure. Stop undesirables using the location late at night. Also, some sensor lighting. This is not terribly expensive. ... I think both the above would be very beneficial."

Limpsfield Fitness and Panda nursery both have sensor lighting, but this is something St Peter's Church might consider for the areas closer to the hall.

Suggestions for action

1 A vehicle gate

There used to be a gate across St Peter's Church hall car park close to the Pavilion, but the gate broke and was not replaced. That gate could be reinstated so that cars cannot have access to the space immediately in front of the building overnight or at weekends. The gate would be opened by Limpsfield Fitness or Panda, or earlier if there is a concern. It would also be closed over the weekend. Anyone requiring access would be given the code to the padlock. Jumping Jacks vans could be parked close to the Pavilion to reduce the risk of them being ransacked and the equipment stolen - this has happened several times.

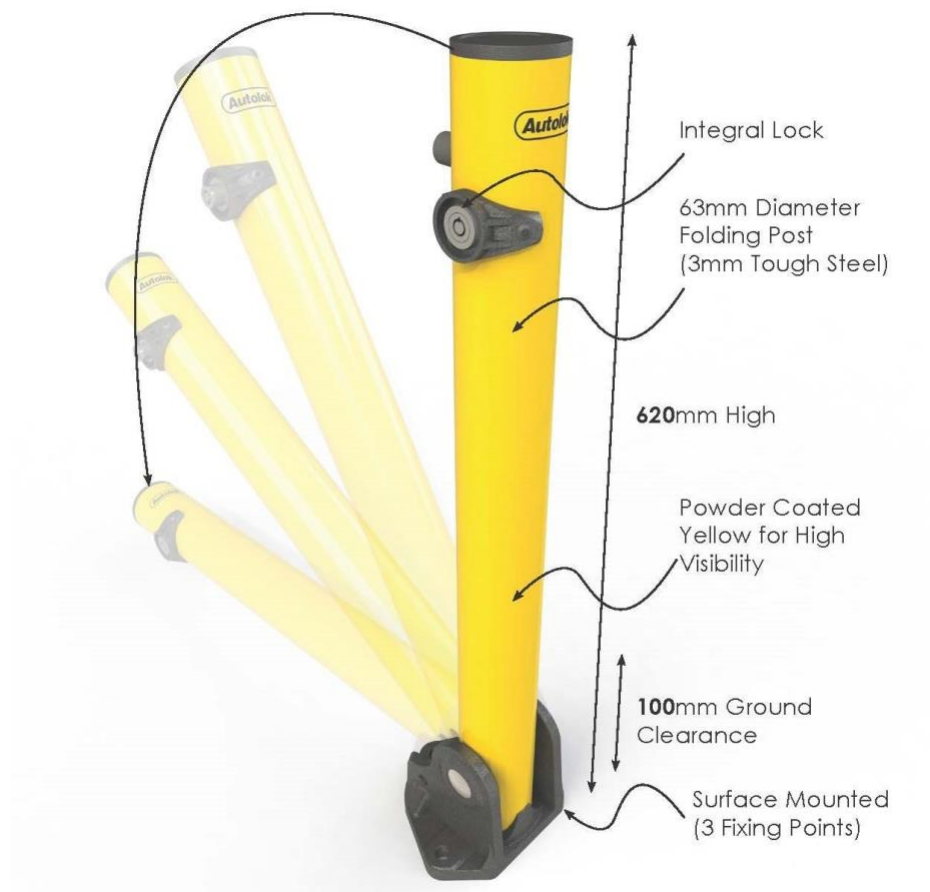
The Gate

A gate with padlock that can be locked in an open or shut position (as at Master Park).



Larkin's Blacksmith made the gate above and has quoted £1,585 plus VAT for making and fitting a 6m wide gate. Other quotes can be obtained but this is the only local supplier who makes gates to order so offers a unique service.

2 A post in the centre of the entrance to the Glebe meadow itself. At present, there are two wooden bars that are very loose and can easily be removed. One central post that can be locked when up or down would prevent vehicles from accessing the field during the day. Such a post would cost approximately £50 to £80 plus installation costs.



3. Other Options

CCTV, signage and further security lights could also be considered in future as this is a private car park.

PROPOSAL for agreement by LPC

1. To agree that a gate should be fitted by LPC and St Peter's Church at a cost of £1,585 plus VAT (£1,902). To propose a contribution towards this from St Peter's Church. St Peter's Church would maintain the gate, but it would be purchased by LPC.
2. To erect a lockable parking post at the entrance to the Glebe Meadow: approximately £120 including VAT and installation.

Contingency of 5% (£100)

To consider other suitable measures to increase safety in the area.