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Autumn 2013

Dear Resident/Motorist,

Following growing concern of the Parish Council, a joint initiative is being taken by all relevant authorities to raise awareness of the problems caused in the local community by careless, inconsiderate or illegal parking. This is to let residents and motorists know the relevant facts and we hope that by telling you it can help stop offences being committed. The Borough Council, the Parish Council and the police receive regular complaints from members of the public who are concerned about the damage caused by parked vehicles on the grass verges, or by dangerous or inconsiderate parking next to schools and other local places. Pedestrians are daily being put at risk and it is dangerous for anyone, but especially our children and disabled people, to have to walk in the road when vehicles block pavements.

It would be ideal to eliminate these risks and avoid the considerable expense of dealing with these problems, so **we are asking for your co-operation in thinking carefully before you park.** The police have listed helpful information overleaf from the Highway Code, the Parish Council can supply copies of the byelaws that relate to vehicles at the Village Green and other Open Spaces under their control and the Borough Council are responsible for enforcing the Highways Act 1980, Part IX, Section 131 in relation to grass verges.

**With your help it is possible to prevent this problem from escalating.** In future, stronger measures may be taken to stop the damage being done. Offenders are likely to be prosecuted should this problem persist and those responsible may be liable for any costs incurred following the reinstatement of the affected area. Records are being taken of vehicle registration numbers of those who are in breach of these laws. It would be helpful to tell others that grassed areas must not be used for parking off the road and that pavements should allow easy access for wheelchairs and pedestrians.

**We are sure you will all agree that the safety and welfare of our children, other pedestrians, our motorists and our environment is of paramount importance which is why this positive action is required.**

Yours faithfully,

*A Lush*

Alison Lush,  
Neighbourhood Manager  
North Solihull,  
Solihull MBC

*C. Tibbles*

Cathy Tibbles  
Clerk/RFO  
Castle Bromwich  
Parish Council

*N. Donaghy*

PC Donaghy  
Castle Bromwich  
Policing Team,  
West Midlands Police

## **ADVICE FROM THE POLICE**

The Highway Code states the following: **DO NOT STOP OR PARK** your vehicle:

- near a school entrance (\*)
- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services (#)
- at or near a bus or tram stop or taxi rank (\*)
- on the approach to a level crossing or tramway crossing
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space (#)
- near the brow of a hill or hump bridge (#)
- opposite a traffic island or (if this would cause an obstruction) another parked vehicle (#\*)
- where you would force other traffic to enter a tram lane
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles (\*)
- in front of an entrance to a property (\*)
- on a bend (#)
- where you would obstruct cyclists' use of cycle facilities (\*)

(#) **Section 22 of the Road Traffic Act 1988** makes it an offence for the person in charge to leave a vehicle or trailer on a road in such a position or condition as to cause a danger to other road users. (Endorsable Ticket – 3 points and £60 fine)

(\*) **Regulation 103 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986** creates the offence of unnecessary obstruction. (Non-Endorsable Ticket £30 fine)

**This letter is serving as a polite warning** and if we observe any cars which are dangerously parked or cause an obstruction to any pedestrian/road user, then positive action **will** be taken and parking tickets **will** be issued. **NO DISCRETION WILL BE USED BY OFFICERS** due to this letter being sent out.

To recap: when parking your vehicles please ensure driveways are kept clear;  
No parking on Yellow Zig Zags, at a junction or blocking the pavement/cycle lane.

Smithswood/Castle Bromwich Policing Team