

Parking Census undertaken on 12th September 2017.

Introduction and Strategy.

The parking census was undertaken by four volunteers from the Travel and Transport Spotlight Group, in order to gather evidence required for the Neighbourhood Plan for Stapleford and Great Shelford.

Using data collection sheets designed by Barbara Kettel we made half hourly walks around the two car parks in Great Shelford noting down the last three digits of the car parked in each space. (We approached the Medical Centre Manager to ask if they wanted their car park included in this but they decided to monitor their own area whilst acknowledging that they have a serious problem with long stay cars and non-medical visitors.) Each volunteer undertook two one and a half hour slots over the 12 hours from 7am to 7pm. By using only the last three digits we avoided any data protection issues as no car is fully identifiable to its owner. The Police were approached to check whether we had permission to undertake such a survey and they had no issues with the proposal.

The spaces included

The Memorial Hall Car Park has 44 officially marked parking spaces with a further 5 un-marked spaces that seemed to be used, and which were also included: these are in front of the gates by the cricket store, and along the LHS of the Memorial Hall on that side.

A further 6 spaces on the road between the Hall's entrance and exit gates were also included. (Although there is a lot of other roadside parking in Woollards Lane, only these 6 on-road spaces were included in this census, for reason of time to complete each sweep.)

The McColls Car Park has 48 potential spaces. This ignores the spaces along both entrance and exit roads, which have private notices on them. One space next to the path to the Medical Centre is designated disabled.

In total we were monitoring 97 spaces.

Not included

No attempt was made to assess how many cars appear to belong to residents along Woollards Lane and surrounding roads and obviously they will want to park outside their own homes where possible. In Woollards Lane we have 2 disabled spaces, 7 spaces which state they are '1 hour only' and 24 open spaces. The High Street has 15 spaces along the road from the junction to the Free Church. These latter spaces obviously enable people to visit the butchers, the Co-op, and provide for residents with no parking facilities of their own.

Results: by length of time parked

1) Permanent Parking

On the road outside Memorial Hall, 2 cars were in place before 7am and still there at 7pm having not moved all day. One of these had a For Sale notice in it and presumably had simply been put there in a prominent position to attract a purchase.

In the McColls car park, 3 cars were in spaces before 7am and remained until after 7pm.

2) Over 6 hours parking.

At the Memorial Hall, 23 cars used spaces for 8 hours, and on the roadside one further car was there for 8 hours.

In the McColls car park, 32 cars used spaces for 8 hours. This is in addition to those parked there for the complete duration of the census.

3) Parking for 2-6 hours.

At the Memorial Hall and roadside, 21 cars stayed for between 2 and 6 hours. This involved 15 spaces in the car park, plus 2 on the roadside. The observation of these cars was that 8 of them stayed for the morning, 13 were there for the afternoon.

In the McColls car park, 9 cars stayed for between 2 and 6 hours. This involved 9 spaces. (One of these cars was there from 7am to 8:30am and then returned at 6pm.) This meant that of the 13 spaces behind McColls not occupied for 8 hours or more, 3 spaces were occupied for the whole morning, and 5 spaces for the afternoon.

Conclusions and Commentary

The all-day parking of 3 cars behind McColls suggests a small number of residents using this car park as free permanent parking for their cars on Council maintained property, designated for visitors to the commercial and leisure facilities in the Village. This puts pressure on parking, though is a small problem compared to the much larger number of cars parked for 8 hours in the day. Because of those longer-staying cars, only 36 of the 97 spaces monitored are actually available for daytime visitors to the Village centre.

A further 26 of those spaces were being used by people who have a medium-stay purpose in the Village (staying between 2 to 6 hours) meaning that the reality is we only have 10 car park spaces off road for short-term visitors to our shops, coffee shops, Dentist, Bank, Play areas within the allocated spaces.

Further research would be needed to investigate who the people parking for 8 hours are, and why. Obviously we want shops to be able to employ staff, and those staff may need to park. Anecdotally it has been noted that some people use Great Shelford as a free "Park and Cycle" to elsewhere, and because this does not benefit the shops or the village in any way, it should be discouraged. But simply restricting parking in the car parks will displace the problem onto adjoining residential streets

