

Appendix 2

Letter from Resident

Hi Catherine & Sue,

I've been intending to get along to Thirlwall Parish Council meetings for a while, but not managed to get there!

There are on-going problems with people visiting the playground from elsewhere and travelling by car who seem to think they have a right to park in the adjoining lane.

The couple who live in the bungalow opposite the playground are forever having to ask people to move their cars. It seems that people think that the little cut opposite the bungalow is a parking area, whereas it's actually there to allow the couple turning space to get in to their yard.

This evening I had to pop out in the van and there was a car quite literally abandoned in the middle of the lane, totally obstructing access to our terrace. The 'lady' came off the playground and manoeuvred it with great difficulty so that I could get past. When I returned 15 minutes later, she had turned the vehicle round, but once again abandoned it in the middle of the lane. Rather than move it, she actually came across and seemed rather annoyed that she needed to move it, as she appeared to be of the opinion that every playground should have a parking area. She was annoyed that the lady from the bungalow had told her not to park in the 'cut'. I pointed out very politely that this is a private lane and there is no parking for the playground, other than on the main street.

Incredibly, she even had the temerity to challenge this, asking if it was actually in my deeds that this is a private lane!

This kind of thing has been going on for years, but when I previously pointed this out to Christine she chose to ignore it.

Given that the playground is now the responsibility of the parish council, can I request that a sign be erected at the end of the lane, or where the tarmac ends, pointing out that this is a private lane and that there is no vehicle access to the playground? It would also be beneficial to put a 'no parking' sign on the playground wall by the 'cut'.

Aside from the playground parking, there is also a problem with vehicles parking on the side of the village hall, or part way across the end of the lane, which is incredibly dangerous when trying to pull out of the lane as you have to swing right out. It makes it very awkward getting down the lane in anything larger than a small car, and given that I have to reverse my van down the lane, it's even more difficult. It's time we had some double yellow lines, or a hatched area at the entrance to Riversdale to try and prevent people from obstructing access. There are 12 properties who have access via the lane. In the event of an emergency, an ambulance or fire engine would in many cases find it difficult to gain access.

Hope that something can be done!