

SPRINGFIELD GOSPEL TRUST

Nyton Road Gospel Hall – Proposed surfacing to overflow car parking

Car parking report – 11th December 2017

We very much appreciate our original planning approval, granted in 2006, at a time when our normal congregation was about 100, or sometimes 150 with visitors from a nearby congregation. These numbers have grown steadily over the years, especially over the last two years, and we now have numbers up to about 750, maybe twice in a three week period. The room and internal facilities can safely accommodate this number, but our parking provision is sadly inadequate, and now both messy and unsafe.

These larger numbers include a high number of young families, including babies, buggies, and toddlers – and also quite a number of elderly, disabled, and less-able.

Overflow carpark – grassed area (see 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 on attached appendix).

There is a grassed overflow carpark area, but this has become unsafe for use for the following reasons:

Flow of families including young children from and to vehicles (see 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 on attached appendix).

The vehicles arrive in good time and in steady flow, and are assisted in finding a suitable parking space with the aid of traffic marshals. However, we have identified a high risk with families moving on foot, negotiating between vehicles both moving and stationary. This is especially true for the young families and the elderly and disabled.

Access routes for Emergency Vehicles (see 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 on attached appendix)

There are no highlighted/allocated parking spaces on the grassed areas, which does not make for efficient vehicle spacing. As a result of this, and the weather referred to below, the main access driveways are often utilised for overflow parking. This restricts emergency access and poses a genuine and serious threat should emergency services be required to gain access to the hall.

Larger numbers in attendance (see 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 on attached appendix).

Due to the larger numbers that are now attending the traffic and parking assistants are requiring more space in order to improve and maintain traffic management, and ensure the parking area is as safe an environment as possible.

Weather issues (see 5.1 on attached appendix).

The grassed area carries huge challenges especially during the winter months as the surface gets very waterlogged. This is unsafe for not only for vehicles whilst travelling around the area, but for young children and elderly persons whilst on foot. The photos attached were taken during early November, and the situation will steady worsen during the winter months.

Conclusion

The safe, orderly and sensible solution is to apply to Arun District Council for approval to extend the paved area of the car park, with appropriate drainage scheme.

Trustees	N J Clarke 16 St Richards Way BOGNOR REGIS PO21 3BD	E J Kerkham 16 Aigburth Avenue BOGNOR REGIS PO21 3DA	I P King Sagaro, Hook Lane Aldingbourne CHICHESTER PO20 3TF	H S Penson 77 Downview Road Felpham BOGNOR REGIS PO22 8JB	R J Wickland Midway Cottage, Glebe Close Norton CHICHESTER PO20 3NJ
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