

An open letter to all Residents of Church Hill, Crayke, also to Crayke parishioners and visitors to Crayke

It is many years since Crayke Parish Council wrote to the residents of Church Hill regarding the Village Green. In the intervening years we have had many new residents come to live on Church Hill and, more recently, we have seen an increase in the number of complaints regarding inconsiderate usage (including parking) of Church Hill. Therefore, in the hope that we can promote more considered behaviour, the Parish Council thought that this would be an appropriate time to remind everyone of the rules surrounding use of the Church Hill Village Green area.

In legal terms the Village Green is an area of land for local people to indulge in 'lawful sports and pastimes'. They have a right of way over **all of it**. This right is well protected by the law. In practice this means that it is an offence to put anything on the Village Green as this would inhibit such use. This includes temporary items such as builders' materials, skips, parked cars etc. Such items are also a potential hazard to pedestrians, particularly after dark. The only exception to this is when the Parish Council arranges to place items, such as seats, which aid the use of the village green for its intended purpose.

Many households enjoy a vehicular right of access across the Village Green to their property. These access tracks are not privately owned driveways. Residents may park within the curtilage of their own property or at the side of the public highway, but not on the right of access (track) itself. Please, also remember that, as these access tracks are over parish land, you must contact the Parish Council prior to undertaking any works on them. The Village Green extends to both sides of the highway on Church Hill, so this relates to properties on both sides of Church Hill.

The track coming out of Key Lane and across the Village Green is a public bridleway. Therefore, it is for the use of walkers, horse riders and cyclists only. There is no public vehicular right of way across this track. There should be no parking on this bridleway as this would restrict its use as such.

The track across the top of Church Hill, nearest the Church, provides a right of access to multiple properties. Again, these are **private**, not public, vehicular rights of access. We would ask residents to avoid inconsiderate parking on this track as this restricts the right of access to the properties at the top of Church Hill.

We recognise that, at busy times, there can be a significant number of cars parked on the highway. We are also aware of a number of occasions where vehicles have driven down the Village Green itself as the highway has been obstructed by poorly parked vehicles; causing damage on route. If this problem continues our only option would be to erect posts to stop vehicles crossing the Village Green. Ideally, sensible parking will ensure the highway is not obstructed to larger (e.g. Emergency) vehicles.

In many cases the inconsiderate behaviour brought to the attention of the Parish Council has been that of visitors (Including tradesmen) to the village. Therefore, we would also be grateful if you could, where necessary, point out the rules regarding usage of Church Hill Village Green area to your visitors.

One final subject that we are often questioned about is mowing of the Village Green. Crayke Village Green is known for its spectacular display of Daffodils in April. In order to ensure that these flower

again the following year the leaves must be allowed to die back before cutting. Therefore, we have a period in late spring/early summer when the grass gets long as the daffodils die back. We then have finances in place to pay for the green to be cut 2 to 3 times a year (Weather-permitting on the steep bank). Many thanks to those of you who mow parts of the village green in order to keep it looking tidy; it is much appreciated.

We hope this has helped clarify the situation and that it helps all residents to continue living harmoniously on Church Hill

CRAYKE PARISH COUNCIL