

PHPC10 Email from resident concerned about parking of vehicles outside their property

To Potter Heigham Parish Council.

I have recently been in touch with NNDC, and they have informed me that it is the Parish Council that I need to contact. I live at [REDACTED], Reynolds Lane, and have been unsuccessful in trying to purchase the piece of disused roadway adjoining the property. I have asked NNDC if a 'No Overnight Parking' sign could be placed there, and am willing to pay for it. I am fed up with camper vans parking overnight and leaving their rubbish when they go, which I have to clear as the council say that the piece of ground is unregistered and they are not responsible for it. Also there are sometimes 4 or 5 cars parked there, some for over a week at a time, often leaking oil onto the ground.

If we can have no parking overnight it may help. Also the library van parks there once a month on Tuesday afternoon, and if there are lots of vehicles he has difficulty parking so that other large vehicles can get through.

I have been cutting the verge, and picking up litter there for the 35 years that we have lived here - litter including used nappies and male contraceptives! It is disheartening when people appear to ignore the 'Take your rubbish home' signs that I had made to put there.

Thank you in advance for discussing this at your meeting.

Email to Cllr Price for advice from clerk

Dear Richard,

I have received the email below from a resident regarding parking on an unregistered piece of land adjacent to her property. I will add the ladies request to display a no parking sign to the next council meeting on 11th December. I presume as the land is unregistered then she is free to put a sign up, as no landowner will challenge it? Am I also right in thinking that she could apply to register the land to her property by way of adverse possession as she has maintained it for 35 years? Apologies if this is not in your remit, I shall redirect the query if it isn't, but thank you for your time and help with this matter.

Kind regards

Laura Bateman

Response from Norfolk County Council following Cllr Price making enquiries

Hi Richard,

We cannot agree to this proposal as simply as that I'm afraid, although it is not unsurmountable.

I am presuming the land in question is below, red cross.

This may be unregistered, but it forms part of the public highway (green hatched area) and no signs can be installed in the public highway without permission from Justin. If Justin does agree, the signage and post to be erected will need to be installed by our contractor and meet DfT / TSRGD requirements. This would need to be funded by the PC or your LMF.

Regarding the unregistered section of land, this is still likely to be owned by someone who simply hasn't had the need to register it (it only became compulsory to register land in approx. mid 1980's when purchased). If she was successful in registering it herself...she can do nothing with it without approval from NCC as it is public highway so the problem will still remain...and she will also be liable for any issues with the land.

As it is public highway, the public are able to park there as long as they are not causing an obstruction etc, but it may be worth asking NNDC if they would be prepared to place a bin here, or if you were to purchase one through your LMF, they would be prepared to empty it.

I hope that helps.

Kind regards,

Damien Jeffries, Highways Area Manager, North Norfolk