

FRIENDS OF MONEYHOLE RESIDENTS PETITION

Chair : Cllr Darren Bennett
Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Dear Councillors and Committee Members

Friends of Moneyhole would like to make a request for funding from WHBC or the community chest. The chest as we know exists to fund small ward improvements which enhance the quality of life for residents. We believe our request fits these criteria perfectly. After discussion with local residents and consultation with one of the country's leading parking equipment manufacturers, we would like you to consider favourably our proposal for an automatic rising step, or rising post, barrier at the entrance/exit to the car park at Moneyhole Lane Park.

There are ongoing problems with vehicle noise, and other vehicle-based nefarious late night activities at Moneyhole Lane Park, disrupting residents' sleep and the quiet enjoyment of their homes. Residents have complained repeatedly over many years to the police but, as their resources are finite they cannot be everywhere, especially late at night when they have less cover, and the problem continues unabated.

Friends of Moneyhole understands this and feels an automatic step or post barrier would be a good permanent solution. It would be operated on a 7 day timer (adjustable), and it would only be raised overnight, at hours to be agreed. In addition a swipe card entry would allow PFC management access. Police and emergency services would also have a swipe card and cabinet key to effect entry, the same arrangement as other car parks. Exit for vehicles within the car park after the barrier has been raised for the night would be automatic, the barrier lowering to allow any vehicle to exit, courtesy of an inductive loop. This is normal practice for car parks of this type everywhere.

We feel that this approach would go some way to improving adjacent residents' lives. In the last couple of weeks we have canvassed those living nearby. 158 people have signed a petition in support of the proposal. The majority of the residents we spoke with on our door-to-door survey complained of ongoing disturbances at the car park late at night, some specifically mentioning drug dealing and fencing of stolen goods. It may prevent serious injury to youngsters carrying out dangerous car antics.

Whilst this measure will not resolve all the anti-social behaviour issues at the park, it would be a worthwhile return on investment for local residents. The quote we have obtained for the equipment and fitting, ranges between twelve and fourteen thousand pounds, depending on the options chosen. After the warranty expires on the installation, a maintenance contract is available, if required, starts around £500 per year. An electrical spur, from a nearby source (available at the entrance, see below) would also be required. Full costing details for the parking equipment installation and supporting documents have been made available.

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The annual revenue maintenance of £500 should be part of future Finesse budgets, or perhaps be drawn from the revenue expenditure of other sources such as car parks, park safety or community safety budgets. This manufacturer's maintenance quote is not mandatory but can be incorporated into the council's existing car park maintenance contracts.

Naturally we understand the Council want to carry out due diligence on the proposal with the emergency services and interested parties. However, we would also kindly request that the residents; most affected in Russett House, Roseacre Gardens, Glenwood and Russett Wood; are fully consulted. Common sense dictates that the cost of all these consultations should not exceed the quote of this solution of £12-14,000 capital spend.

Most importantly, this ward improvement project will directly improve the lives of very many local residents (possibly upwards of 100 households) in Panshanger, as well as deterring vehicle based or related crime. A win-win scenario.

After Saturday 21 November's public meeting, we have the support in principle from Councillors Bennett and Johnson for this proposal if the revenue cost can be found. A copy of our local residents' petition is attached.

We are happy to meet you to discuss this petition.

Thank you

FRIENDS OF MONEYHOLE

Date: 23rd November 09

Website: www.welwynhatfield.co.uk/moneyhole

Email: moneyholepark@googlemail.com

Box believed to be electrical power source by Moneyhole Lane entrance



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CAR RELATED INCIDENTS OBSERVED BY RESIDENTS

| TYPES | TIME OF DAY | FREQUENCY |
|---|--|---|
| Loud thumping car music and drinking raves. Youngsters attracted to the cars with drinking till early Effects- High bass can shake the block. | Mainly between 10 pm – 3 am | No pattern. Can be any day of the week. More frequent on weekends. Worse in summer. 08 – 12 August |
| Racing around with screeching tyres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skid panning • 'Doughnutting' | ditto | ditto |
| Car antics – lads hanging on windscreen of moving car bonnet to see how far they can be thrown off at sudden braking | | More frequent when the car park is flooded or icy. |
| Bleeping car horns to each other in the car park | ditto | No pattern. Can be any day of the week |
| Overnight campers of car owners toileting in the tree belt | Overnight and waking residents at 4 am | No pattern mainly in summer |
| Dealing in stolen goods | At night | No pattern |
| Drug dealing or using | At night | No pattern |
| Dog walkers using the park before work. Slamming doors and barking dogs | Before 6 am | Regular |