

# Comments for Planning Application CA/20/02636

## Application Summary

Application Number: CA/20/02636

Address: All Saints Church Church Street Whitstable Kent CT5 1PG

Proposal: Installation of gate to church car park.

Case Officer: Alice Wightman

## Customer Details

Name: Ms Lindsay Clifford

Address: Not Available

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: The proposed structure is ugly and is more in keeping with the film set of Shawshank Redemption rather than with aesthetics of All Saints Church and its environs, ie. the Conservation Area. Even if the gates were attractive, the proposal is impractical and potentially divisive.

Pollution would be a problem with engines running whilst people are opening and closing the gate to enter the Car Park.

Noise would be an issue with people stopping, exiting and entering their vehicles and slamming car doors and opening and closing the gate.

The knock-on effect could be dangerous, too, with elderly people having to exit and enter their cars to open and close the gate upon entering and exiting the Car Park. It has the potential to deter the elderly or infirm from visiting the graves of loved-ones.

Another danger could be if a small queue formed at the Car Park entrance and a vehicle turned the corner and drove straight into the queue as it is sometimes not possible to see around the corner when a vehicle is parked in front of the Bus Stop. It is very rare (practically unheard of) for cars to enter the Car Park at speed but I have witnessed two accidents at the junction of the Car Park and Church Street because of blind spots when cars are parked by the Bus Stop. If two cars are exiting and entering the Car Park at the same time there could also be problems.

Many young mothers with pushchairs coming from the Nursery or Church Hall walk across the Car Park as the pavement next to it (by the Bus Stop) is very narrow. They, too, would have to juggle with opening and closing the gate whilst looking after their little ones (as, too, with dog walkers - many of whom are elderly). NB : The Car Park is continually used as a safe walkway because of

the narrow path next to it, no path opposite and a busy road in between.

Wedding and funerals could, potentially, create mayhem. There is already an issue with cars arriving at the same time and visitors and coaches parking in the very limited parking space we have for our neighbourhood. It would be helpful for everyone if church staff directed these visitors/coaches to extra parking the Nursery Car Park on weekends (but this hasn't happened although has been requested by residents).

Visitors to the church, church hall and church grounds could be tempted to park in the (very) limited space we have for our neighbourhood rather than faff around opening and closing the gates. We have already been informed we cannot have residents' parking in our area and, with several vans, cars and trucks parked further up Church Street it could be that we have nowhere to park at all should our small local area be taken up. This problem could worsen when there are Car Boot Sales, of course.

The statement that evening children's clubs are affected by lack of parking is very misleading. The car park is usually mostly vacated by the evening and many of the mothers collect their children on foot.

What is also misleading is 'blame' shown towards The Monument pub (Margaret Arnold's letter) - and during global Pandemic. I'm afraid I find this somewhat mean-spirited. Ms. Arnold is not a resident in this area and therefore does not appear to know the true story. The pub has been closed for the greater part of a year and the licensees have had to think of creative ways to make the best of things. A marquee was installed for extra space and the safety of customers when they briefly re-opened a few months ago. I believe this is not going to be a permanent structure and that customer car parking will be reinstated when life gets better. As I said above, the church Car Park has very few vehicles (if any) parked in the evening. The pub is shut so it doesn't make sense to assume the cars belong to pub customers.

Several youths from The Whitstable School walk home through the church grounds after school. They often stop in the lytch gate and play around in the area - letting off steam. I can see the potential of these gates being used as a climbing frame by these (and other) youngsters possibly leading to an accident if they show off a little too much. It's a concern and also a possibility.