

Cove Car Park Petition

Statement –

We as residents of Cove, Cockburnspath, Scottish Borders hereby petition Scottish Borders Council to –

1. Designate ten parking spaces for residents use only
2. Introduce a 15mph speed limit into the village
3. Limit vehicle size into the village
4. Erect a 'No Through Road' sign

Our tiny village of Cove has over recent years experienced increasing traffic volumes, including large motorhomes and tour buses. The only turning places are the increasingly congested car park, and residents' private drives.

On busy days the parking situation has become so severe that villagers are wary of using their cars, finding parking on their return home increasingly difficult, and sometimes impossible. Cove has a high proportion of older residents, and the lack of parking can impact disproportionately on them in tasks such as unloading shopping. It can also act as a deterrent to family visitors. Recent reductions in local bus services, particularly at weekends, have increased car dependency among local residents.

In the past, expensive works have been carried out to stabilise the cliff on which the village stands, and we now worry how the road will stand up to increasing traffic volumes if the traffic is not managed. The road into Cove is a single track no through road, with no pavements or passing places, and with limited parking available in the village. Yet there are no speed limit signs, no vehicle size restrictions, no indication of the 'No Through Road' status, nor any notification that parking space is limited.

Further information –

Communications with SBC concerning parking –

In my time as a community councillor I have informally brought up the subject of car parking at Cove with SBC councillors at a meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council at least twice. On both occasions I have been told that it was 'not SBC's policy to have reserved places for residents in public car parks'. Mr Kevin Payne of Cove has also contacted Philippa Gilhooly and Jim McQuilin of SBC in the last two years in connection with the subject of reserved parking and been informed that it was not SBC's policy to have reserved parking because the policy could not be enforced.

Previous concerns about air pollution because of vehicles sitting with engines idling were raised in the past by Mrs Dorothy Swanston a resident of Cove and

by David Arnott a community councillor and at that time a resident of Cove. The correspondence was in 2012/13 with the then SBC councillor Mr Michael Cook and SBC officers Samantha Elliot, Jim McQuilin and Darren Silcock.

Neil F Simpson

Vice-chairperson, Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council

Action taken –

In Spring 2017 residents of Cove being aware of SBC's policy and having become frustrated with the traffic and parking situation in Cove car park took it on themselves to place 'Residents Only' signs along a private boundary fence on the east side of the car park. These signs although unofficial and therefore not policed have been quite effective in keeping some spaces free for residents. Visitors on the whole seem to respect that the places are reserved so some of the frustration of living with the traffic and parking situation has been alleviated.

On 15th July 2017 Councillor Fullarton of SBC emailed the secretary of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council to enquire as to whether she knew anything about the signs being erected in the car park as SBC officers wanted to have them removed and needed to know who erected the signs in order to inform them that this action would be taken.

Transcripts of emails in support of this petition and photographs attached.