

Appendix A

Parking Problems Every Weekend on Lingfield Road, Lucilina Drive and Coomb Field

We, the undersigned, would like the Council and the Edenbridge Sports Association to take notice and act on the constant parking problems the residents of Coomb Field, Lucilina Drive and Lingfield Road experience on Saturday and Sunday mornings, due to the amount of cars parking down the roads to use the recreational ground.

Cars are constantly parked on the kerbs, across footpaths and driveways. We constantly complain to the Police and the Council but we feel that a long term solution needs to be put into place. Whilst we support the local clubs within the community, people parking show absolutely no concern to residents once the recreational ground is full. Edenbridge adopts 'free parking' in all car parks and both Co-op and Market Yard are within walking distances.

The parking has become so bad that should an emergency vehicle need to be called to the recreation grounds it has become impossible for it to get up Coomb Field or into Lucilina Drive. It has also become impossible for family members to visit on a weekend. Police Community Support Officers have begun issuing tickets for illegally parked cars but more stringent methods need to be enforced.

There is a need for a review by the council and Edenbridge Sports Association to take responsibility and employ stewards on both Saturdays and Sundays, so when the car park becomes full cars are turned away to other car parks within Edenbridge. The sports association has to pick up the cost to employ these stewards. Alternatively a fining system should be put into place so the clubs get fined if their members continue to park irresponsibly and illegally and this money is used to pay for additional policing and additional council tax costs we will incur for damaged pavement and drain covers. Failing this pitch access should be removed for a week each time members park irresponsibly and illegally.

Name	Address	Signature
Chris Waite	27 Coomb Field	
Ellie Waite	27 Coomb Field	
Jo Cunningham	40A COOMB FIELD	
LISA CAMPBELL	40B COOMB FIELD	
GARETH PHILLIPS	40B COOMB FIELD	
Tim Pile	40C - 11	
Debbie Reed	40D Coomb Field	
PAUL REED	40D COOMB FIELD	
HELEN SUTHERLAND	22, COOMB FIELD	
KAY MARSH	25 Coomb Field	
Julie Baker	29 COOMB FIELD	
PAUL BURGESS	36 LINGFIELD ROAD	
SYLVIA DOUGHERTY	54 LINGFIELD RD	
Sharon Champion	55 Lingfield Rd	
IRIS SHIPWAY	Mudgevick Lingfield Road	
TRACY LINDSEY	3 LUCILINA DRIVE	
S. O'Gwen	5 LUCILINA DRIVE	

Edenbridge Town Council

Town Clerk: Christine Lane CertHE Local Policy



Petition

Weekend parking problems Lingfield Road, Lucilina Drive and Coomb Field

In response to the concerns raised over the inconsiderate parking by visitors to the Recreation Ground on Sunday 24 October the Council liaised with the Sports Association, Police and local residents to establish what had gone wrong and to ensure that the difficulties experienced by some residents were not repeated.

Last season, in response to a request made by the Sports Association, new procedures were put into place by the Rugby Club, these included informing their members and visiting teams of the parking difficulties in advance, advising where free parking was available, providing volunteer marshals at the entrances to direct cars away from the site and liaising with the local police. For some months the Edenbridge Police and Community Together (PACT) group had the parking issue as one of the town's three local priorities. Residents were provided with local police contact details so they could report difficulties if they arose. The situation improved considerably and appeared to be under control, so it was removed from the priority list. The Police and the Council received very few complaints throughout the remainder of last season.

There is no doubt that the system of marshalling failed on Sunday 24 October. Three warning notices were issued by the PCSOs to cars that had parked inconsiderately. Everyone involved in monitoring and marshalling was informed of the problems and asked to ensure that it did not reoccur. Encouragingly, no problems were reported over the weekend of 30/31 October or 6/7 November.

At the full council meeting on Monday 8 November members discussed residents' concerns and considered if anything further could be done to relieve the situation.

Council offices: Doggetts Barn, 72A High Street, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5AR

Office hours: Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm **Tel:** (01732) 865368 **Fax:** (01732) 866749

Email: townclerk@edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk **Web:** www.edenbridgetc.kentparishes.gov.uk

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The following actions were agreed.

- Council to investigate the possibility of a small extension to the existing car park subject to approval by the planning authority and the funding being available.
- Council's representatives to discuss with the Sports Association the possibility of the voluntary marshals remaining on duty longer to prevent problems by late arrivals.
- Parking plans to be a key consideration when the new Agreement for use of Recreation Ground is negotiated.
- Residents to be advised that should they wish, they can apply to Kent Highway Services 08458 247 800 for white "dog bone" markings to be installed across their driveways. If approval is granted the cost is £115 per house.
- Police and Community Partnership to put parking issues in Coomb Field area as a priority. (Agreed at the PACT meeting held 9 November). The Police will give priority to patrolling the area at weekends, subject to other operational demands.
- Residents to be invited to attend the quarterly meetings of the Edenbridge Police and Community Partnership to ensure that problems can be properly monitored and solutions achieved together. Leaflet attached.
- Local police contact number 01732 379361 and non emergency number 01622 690690 to be provided so problems can be resolved swiftly.
- Situation to be monitored through Police, Sports Association, Council and local residents to ensure effectiveness.

**The Council hopes that residents will be reassured
and that these actions will resolve the issues.**

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From: Wendy Morris [wendy.morris1@tesco.net]
Sent: 17 November 2010 20:07
To: townclerk@edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk
Subject: Weekend parking problems in Coomb Field

Dear Town Clerk

We are writing to you to comment on the recent petition you received regarding the parking problems on Sunday mornings in Coomb Field, Lucilina Drive and Lingfield Road.

The support our neighbour received to the petition was by no means unanimous, and as residents of Coomb Field we would like to make our objections to it known to you.

What concerns us more than anything else is that this has not been a problem in the 10 and 15 years respectively we have lived here. It must therefore follow that excessive action of this type identifies a problem not with the event, but with somebody uncommitted to community activity. We understand what community is all about and the Sunday morning use of the field is by far the largest community activity that takes place on a regular basis. For this reason alone there is a sense of support in meeting the needs of the excess parking requirement of the parents who religiously bring their youngsters to these events.

What is also of considerable concern to us is that the young lady who is heading this petition has not thought through either the responsibilities of being a member of the community, or the impact if her actions are successful in restricting parking. Quite simply if it is made difficult for parents to park for the two hours they need, the rugby club (and other similar groups) will become less supported, and the children will suffer as a consequence.

If parking restrictions were put in place, this would create an unnecessary additional expense for everyone, and restrict our own parking and that of our families and visitors.

We welcome, and are grateful, for the support of the rugby club marshals and the PCSOs in patrolling the estate during the sessions, and taking whatever action is necessary against the small minority of drivers who park improperly or inconsiderately.

Best regards

Mrs W Morris, No. 41
Mrs D Twigg, No 44.

From: John Coombes [pendragon.jay@tesco.net]
Sent: 18 November 2010 16:16
To: townclerk@edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk
Subject: Parking Problems on Sunday Mornings - Coomb Field Road

Dear Town Clerk

The furor that has occurred because of one incident last month seems to me to be a total over-reaction by one of our newest residents. It concerns me that this young lady has moved into this estate without recognising the responsibilities that come with living by a community playing field.

I have been here for over 10 years now and consider it a privilege to be able to support the many mums and dads who bring their kids to the rugby training sessions for a couple of hours during the winter months. If we did not provide that support, in accepting the need for parents to park in the adjacent roads because of the huge success of this weekly event, many would not come and the kids would suffer.

This is what community is all about – it's not what you take out, but what you put in, and something that would appear to be lost on this new resident. Her complete lack of experience of this event becomes abundantly clear when we understand that she arrived here in February this year (at the ending of the last season) and is throwing her toys out of the pram when we are only a few weeks into the new season! I can see no evidence of care and concern for the community in her actions, but rather a concern for her own needs.

As I understand it she has raised a petition, which I declined to support, and I have to question it's validity as there appear to be anomalies. I found her approach a little intimidating and this has been corroborated by a neighbour who told me she had signed the petition "under duress". She is an elderly member of the community and so I will keep her anonymous.

I am also aware of another signature that is not that of the resident (my next door neighbour). The actual resident would not have signed the petition if presented with it. These anomalies come without any probing on my part and somewhat distort the impression given of a united community - in our block of six houses alone at least half the residents who could sign the petition chose not to.

In an era of fragmented communities and increasingly severe cut backs in public spending, this type of knee jerk reaction, to what was a "one off" lapse by a consistently responsible group of people, is in danger of becoming a huge waste of time and money – particularly when taking into account not only the Councils time but that of our wonderful police. If we then consider the costs of a parking ban in Coomb Field – that would work against the residents as well – then the whole situation becomes prohibitive.

The rugby club supporters manage what is the largest regular event on the playing fields, and they are scrupulous not only in their management of what appears to be up to a couple of hundred excited kids, but also in clearing up after each event. (If only the football clubs using the same facilities could learn from this!!)

Given the already established responsibility of the event organisers, and before this whole sorry episode escalates further, would it not make sense for a short notice to be placed on every windscreen at the start of the season in September and again at the start of the New Year with words to the effect: "It is with the support of the local residents that we park here – let's

reciprocate this support by respecting their property and access whilst we are here". I am sure this would meet with the full approval and support of the event organizers and their volunteers.

I speak of what we contribute to the community as an ex-chairman of the Sevenoaks Crime Prevention Panel (sadly now disbanded), Victim Support member and Befriender for Sevenoaks Volunteer Bureau for over 10 years, before moving to Edenbridge. Much good could come from this sorry state of affairs if the young lady concerned gained an insight into the ramifications of what her actions might have caused, if they were followed to a logical conclusion, and the rewards of having joined a community that constantly care about each other and the young.

John Coombes (No 41)