

St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council

Report #12.3

Reading Room Car Park

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To request the Council to consider a proposal from the Chairman of the Trustees of the Corston & Rodbourne Reading Room for permission to establish a small car park at the front of the Chippenham Road playing field.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Chairman of the Trustees of the Corston & Rodbourne Reading Room has recently contacted Wiltshire Estates to seek its views, as landowners of the Chippenham Road playing fields, of the possibility of establishing a small car park at the front of the playing field for the use of hirers of the Reading Room.
- 2.2 Wiltshire Estates' response was generally positive but advised the Trustees to seek the views of the Parish Council, as present lessees, before embarking on the next steps. Apparently there is no covenant in the Council's lease with WC to suggest that the playing fields can only be used for recreational purposes.
- 2.3 If permission in principle was forthcoming from the Council, the Trustees next action would be to seek pre-application planning advice from WC Development Management in addition to providing assurance to all concerned, principally Wiltshire Council and the Parish Council that an appropriate level of funds will be in place to complete the project. Following that it would be necessary to obtain formal agreement from the local Council to either surrender part of the land from the lease, or sublet the land, to the Trustees of the Reading Room.
- 2.4 The Chairman of the Trustees also requested the Council to investigate with WC whether the Open Space s106 contribution from the Manor Farm development could be used for the purpose of contributing to the cost of the car park and, if so, whether the Council would be agreeable to allocating some/all of the available funds for this purpose.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The Council is invited to consider the matter.

Cllr Andy Hatherell
05.12.2021