



Report to Parish Council: Proposal for Resident-Only Parking on Parish-Owned Land

Date: 29th July 2025 **Prepared by:** Lynn Clarke **Subject:** Evaluation of Parking Management Options for Trelavour Square.

1. Background

The Parish Council owns and manages the land at Trelavour Square, currently functioning as a **free public car park**. Concerns have been raised regarding increasing pressure from non-resident parking and reduced access for local households. This report explores the potential for a resident-only designation and alternative approaches.

2. Legal and Statutory Powers

Under the **Local Government Act 1972**, Parish Councils may manage their own land:

- **Section 124 & 126:** Management and repurposing of land.
- **Section 137:** Community-beneficial expenditure.

Any change must comply with planning conditions, data protection laws (if enforcement involves surveillance), and public access covenants (where applicable).

3. Community Consultation

This process would require a community consultation. Whilst several residents from the area have expressed this request for residential parking if the Council were to consider these changes a full consultation is recommended via:

- Local newsletter and website
- Public notice boards
- Online survey or community event

4. Contextual Constraints

- This site has long been a **free, open-access car park** serving the community.
- The **number of spaces is limited**, making individual household allocation unfeasible.
- Restricting access may risk **community backlash**, especially from regular public users.

5. Options Appraisal

Option	Pros	Cons
Resident-Only Parking Scheme	Prioritises locals; may reduce non-resident use	Limited spaces; public opposition; enforcement complexity
Mixed-Use Bays	Balances needs; flexible use	Needs signage; potential confusion
Time-Limited Restrictions	Reduces long-term misuse; retains short-term access	Requires enforcement; signage cost
Non-Exclusive Resident Permit	Low cost; goodwill gesture	Symbolic; no guaranteed access
Seasonal/Trial Scheme	Allows real-world testing; adaptable to peak periods	May confuse users; temporary effectiveness
Status Quo + Improved Communication	Minimal disruption ; Promote responsible usage	Doesn't solve core problem; relies on voluntary cooperation

6. Financial Implications

Below are some of the costs that would need to be considered for such a scheme.

Item

Signage and installation
Permit admin system
Enforcement (annual)
Consultation materials

There may also be planning considerations which have not been taken into account. Funding options include Parish reserves, local grants, or contribution-based schemes.

7. Recommendation

Given space limitations and longstanding public use, a full resident-only scheme may not be feasible. If the Council were to consider this as an option, it is recommended that the Council:

- Reviews alternative options outlined above
- Conduct a community consultation to assess support
- Consider a trial or mixed-use approach as a compromise
- Revisits decision following public input and feasibility analysis