

## **Public Comments Relating to Parking on Grass Verges.**

### **Compiled by Cllr Stephen Fenton**

Names and addresses recorded and filed. Some submitted photographs not used.

#### 1. Ward: **Micklegate**

Copy of letter to the York Press

Could I appeal through Readers Letters to those Contractors to put right what they have done at this site. This was indeed an act of vandalism in all sense of the word. Criminal damage could be another word for such at that location.

This area has already seen some renovation from Russell Stone's team at the City of York council though funding from the Residents' Association.

As a Committee Member I was so disappointed that common sense was not an option at the time?

I am sure some networking with Highways some space would have been made in the parking respite area to be cordoned off for them to be able to do their work at a nearby property. Now money will have to be found to replace it to its original state and not like this.

Good networking will the council could have assured support for their work please work with the council and not against them this is sent to all in the community basically for support to look after our areas of beauty the message is Communicate please for support?

#### 2. **Holgate**

I saw the report in The Press and would advise that the verges in Windmill Rise (each side of the windmill) are regularly used as private parking spaces by residents, despite parking often being available on the street or even in their own adjacent driveways.

I understand this is not the area identified in the report but the condition of some sections is dreadful with not a single blade of grass evident sometimes.

I raised this issue with CYC a couple of years ago but was met with a stony silence.

3. **Acomb**



This photo was taken in Acomb on Tostig Avenue, which is terrible for people parking on the grass. I complained to council last week and heard nothing!

4. **Rural West**

I am interested to read you are looking into this problem. Have you noticed the number of cars that park every weekday along Mill Lane that leads to the Water tower off Askham Fields Lane opposite the entrance to Askham Bryan College. Some days there are as many as twenty vehicles parked on both sides. Wednesdays seem to be the worst day.

I have contacted the local PCSO, and the College, pointing out that

cars are often parked within 32 feet of the junction (see highway code) and the PCSO said he would look into it but the problem is getting worse. I have even seen for sale signs on one car.

I suspect that due to the variation in numbers that a few are car sharing but the majority are probably over spill from the College!!

## 5. **Huntington & New Earswick**

The damage to the verge has been caused by a change in the size of the lorry that delivers to a local butcher at Brockfield resulting in it driving over the verge. There hadn't been a problem til then. It has now been agreed to put bollards there – for several years bollards have been refused.

For us city fibre has damaged many verges but as they are supposed to repair them all we might end up with better verges than we had before.

## 6. **Rural West**

There is a big problem on the corner of Ebor Way and Millfield Lane in Nether Poppleton.

[Cars parked outside homes] make the road one way in effect. The road is used by delivery vehicles to the local shops and because of the parked vehicle they regularly have to drive over the grass verge. When the river is in flood at the bottom of the village the no. 10 bus also has to somehow squeeze past these parked vehicles and this is at a time when the ground is particularly wet so inevitably there is a lot of damage to the verge. A number of other vehicle have also started using the road to park in; we suspect these are people associated with the local children's nursery.

I have complained to council in the past about the state of the road and even went as far as contacting Julian Sturdy. I understand that in 2014 it was graded as a 5 with regard to repair but was not

selected in the rankings for a scheme in the 2015/2016 financial year. I don't know if pressure can be brought to bear for it to be included in the 2016/17 year.

## 7. **Wheldrake**



We have a problem with the verge outside 54 Main St Wheldrake YO19 6AB. We have tried to make it good after tractors and trucks use it as highway to overtake cars parked for the Doctors Surgery or using the Village Shop. The doctors could do with a specific car park

A lady slipped on a grass verge getting out of her car and was hospitalized with a serious break to her arm/shoulder. She could have used a car park if one was available at the Doctors.

## 8. Hull Road

I read with great interest that you are now attempting to champion the cause for not parking on verges and trashing them – I really wish you the best of luck. If you want to see the damage that is done just drive down Tang Hall Lane and any other area you care to mention. The whole ethos around parking on the verges is “I pay my council tax and this area is outside my house” – wrong.

Usually the culprits are where there is more than one car per house and the residents cannot be bothered to change them round and put them back on the drive. Having said that just take a drive round the ring road to fully understand how the council doesn't maintain our roads and doesn't keep them rubbish free. Take a look at the disgusting mess down Malton Road, where the wonderful daffodils display is really struggling this year, due to lack of careful cutting/maintenance from the council.

I therefore really believe that the council should take a lead in this rather than just battering the residents. Yes there is a massive problem but truly how can you expect the residents to change their behaviour when we receive such poor value from the council. Our road system is third world, our upkeep of that system is non-existent and therefore people could not care less.

We have some serious problems in York so we need leadership and we also need desire for leadership, which means you guys need to be visible and shouting and getting things done.

## 9. N/A

I recently read an article in The York Press regarding a review being underway into parking on grass verges in York. This is a problem that we see all too often in an urban environment, however, we have a tried and tested solution to remedy this issue. Being a landscape supply company we manufacture our own soils, and we have blended a bespoke product to help alleviate the destruction of

grassed areas when loads are placed upon them.

Green-tree Structural Soil is a soil and sand based substrate reinforced with polypropylene Fibres, it is an advanced substrate that's stable and free draining. It provides excellent structural strength enabling it to be used for a variety of applications that are frequently trafficked. During the mixing process of Green-tree structural soil, crimped polypropylene fibres are entwined with the substrate increasing its overall strength and resistance. Green-tree structural soil can be used on various applications such as: Emergency and access Roads, overspill car parks, Golf course buggy routes, verges and pedestrian walkways and also public recreation areas.

I have attached data sheet which will give you more information on the product but also explains how the product is installed correctly, I believe this product would be a great solution to the issues we have been facing in York regarding the destruction of our Grass Verges. If you would like some more information or if you would like to have a discussion about the product then please do not hesitate to contact me on the details provided below.

#### 10. **Heworth**

After reading the article in the York Press about you wanting to improve the appearance of our grass verges by stopping parking or driving over them, I enclose a few photographs of the grass verges on Heworth Green near Monkbridge roundabout.

There are more examples of damaged verges on Heworth Green/ going in the direction away from the city towards Monks Cross





## 11. **Copmanthorpe**

Great news that a review is planned of parking on verges. The verges in our street (Sawyers Crescent, Copmanthorpe) have been destroyed by selfish parking and some of the residents even took it upon themselves to repair them at their own expense and in their own time this week.

I had written countless emails to the council and reported the parking but with no response so this is excellent news.

## 12. **Heworth**

I am finally pleased to hear action is being taken on this matter by the council, having received a letter in regards to action being taken over 12 months ago in our area (Starkey Crescent Heworth) for motorist parking and ruining the grass verges for no reason when there is plenty of road space is very annoying and frustrating to say

the least that no enforcement or progression has been made, I will provide photos as evidence from my area to highlight what is now an eyesore.



**13. Westfield**

You requested readers forward you details of damaged grass verges. I have reported damage to grass verges twice in Thoresby Road several weeks ago.

**14. Westfield**

I was interested to see this in The York Press. We have similar problems in the Kingsway West / Danesfort Avenue area. In addition there is also the problem of vehicles being parked for long



periods half on the foot path (where there is no grass verge) and half on the road causing an obstruction for push chairs and wheel chair users. Nobody seems to want to take responsibility for taking any action. Can you add this problem to the grass verge issue?

**15. Heworth**

I read, in the Press, that you were asking people to email you about damaged verges. I live on Walney Road, Heworth (which runs down from Heworth village to the top of Tang Hall Lane).

There are a number of damaged verges along our road, and the damage has increased over this very wet period. Most of our houses have drives but some car owners park on the verges habitually. I cannot help thinking that this must harm the soil structure in some way, aside from the churning up of the grass.

**16. Acomb**

Informed the council last year of the state of the grass verges in Langholme Drive York with cars and vans parking on them and cutting them up badly especially in wet weather, were all relayed a number of years ago and now make the road look awful. Planting trees would prevent this happening and smarten up the area.

**17. Westfield**

The grass verges on Bramham Avenue have been destroyed by the people parking on them and now look a disgrace. I and a lot of the other private/council residents are starting to get annoyed as this makes a nice street look terrible. We all got a letter several years ago about parking on the verge with the threat of a fine is this now not current?

I would be grateful if this could be sorted because we all care about the look of the street and as all the children will be starting to play in the street soon and with no grass to play on means they will be on the road. We all take a lot of pride in the look of our houses and gardens for the image to be spoilt by the few digging the grass up when parking their cars and vans on them.

## 18. **Dringhouses and Woodthorpe**

We have a badly damaged grass verge at the entrance to our private development, which I have previously reported to the council , ref no 103063288. This damage has been caused by the council's own staff and bin/recycle wagons. It has happened before and then stopped for many months / years, but the latest driver seems to go over the grass leaving mud on the road and the grass verge with massive tyre tracks and divots. I have had no feedback from the council apart from the above ref no.

I cannot understand how certain drivers can avoid the verge altogether yet others drive over it with no regard for the damage they do. The wagon is the same size and cars can't park opposite due to double yellow lines, so it must be down to individual drivers that don't take enough care and time. It's the council that should be setting the example and not adding to the problem.

## 19. **Holgate**

[The piece of land] in front of council owned flats at the top of Baildon Close in Acomb, York was once a lovely grass area. It is now a muddy puddle when it rains.

The grass is cut up, not just where the two cars are but to the left also where we once had nice area of grass at the top of the cul-de-sac....the cars also block footpaths too. (Photograph and further information on ownership of these cars filed but not used in this Annex)

## 20. **Holgate**

I saw the article in The Press about grass verges being ruined by motorists and the request for images to show this as evidence. In several cases, there is little (apparent) choice for them (too many cars and insufficient parking) and I can understand why they do it. I don't, however, condone it since I am happy parking my car further away if it means I don't destroy a verge.

However in some cases, it is just inappropriate. For one example, near my home in Holgate, I have attached two photographs. The street is unnamed but runs along the side of 21 Falconer Street YO24 4JH. The junction in the photographs is of Park Lane. Here and thereabouts there is permit parking, but people squeeze in

regardless, in this particular case, between two (rather attractive when flowering and fruiting) trees.



A partial solution would be a further small tree or perhaps a bench. I suspect a significant problem is also large vehicles using Park Lane (I have seen delivery lorries stop at the Holgate Road-end of Park Lane.)

Similar examples of verges also exist on Hamilton Drive, near Our Lady Queen of Martyrs school. However, a possible solution is, if the parking pressure is in the evening, and the school car park is available for residents, and it is usually empty on the evening. There are a few obvious issues with this but with considerate parking the (otherwise empty-at-night) school car park could be more efficiently used. Perhaps similar possibilities exist elsewhere in the city.

## 21. **Osballdwick and Derwent**

I suggest somebody should have a look around Osballdwick especially in Pinelands Way, Eskdale Ave and Thirkleby Way,

## 22. **Heworth Without**

I understand from the Press that you are seeking examples of verges destroyed by vehicles. I attach a few photos here of the verge opposite my house in Caedmon Close, Heworth which had been damaged, I believe, by the council recycling vehicles.



Despite assurances that the damage would be repaired, it never was. A neighbour and I put some new turf down which largely rectified the problem, but it has been damaged again, and once more looks like it did in the photos.



I would add that several of the verges in neighbouring Whitby Drive are also damaged, mostly by cars. I hope this is helpful.

### 23. **Westfield**

This is also a problem in Chapelfields and a lot of this is caused by people parking on junctions and dustbin and recycle lorries have to mount the verges to navigate the streets. I have watched it happen dozens of times. Police used to make you move your car if you were parked within 25 yards of a junction, they don't care anymore

### 24. **Hull Road**

In the Press you ask people to email you about the damage to grass verges in the streets of York these pictures are just a few in our street. We have found that people are very inconsiderate on parking where they think fit. We have complained to the council about it quite a few times & was told in no uncertain terms that nothing could be done about it.





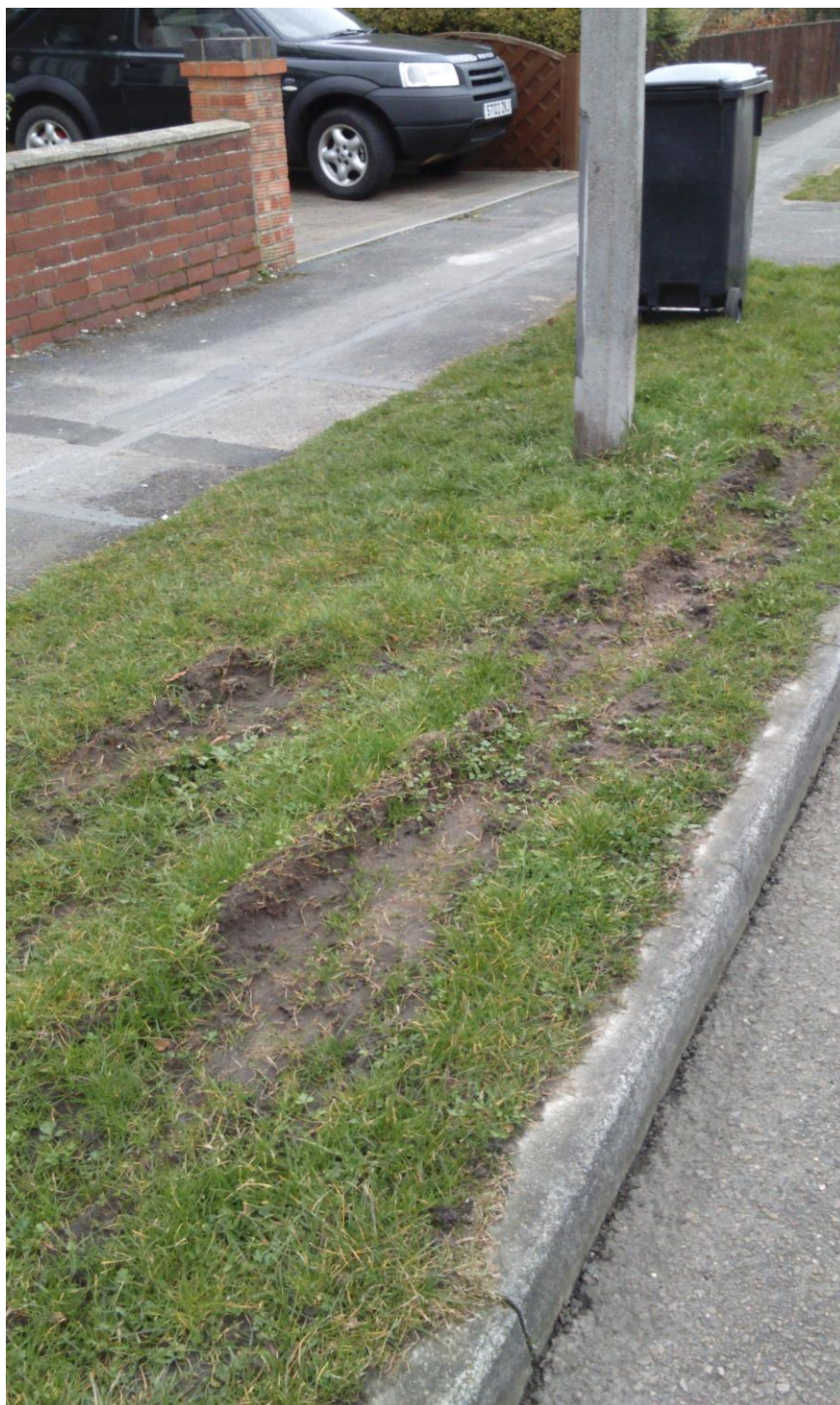


## 25. **Holgate**

I live on Howe Hill road and walk to Acomb via Howe Hill Close every Saturday. Outside one house there are cars parked on the grass and on the public path way cracking all the paving slabs. Sometime if you are holding two carrier bags you have to turn sideways to pass. I have also seen people enter the road to get by which is very dangerous. The hole in the grass is so deep now that the driver has started to move a little way down making this muddy.

## 26. Rawcliffe and Clifton Without

Re your article in the York Press regarding parking on grass verges. Here with an example on Reighton Drive, Rawcliffe York. (Text edited) We as a family take pride in looking after the grass verge outside our house.





## 27. **Dringhouses and Woodthorpe**

We have spent a frustrating winter with the grass verge in front of our house being subject to off road parking.

Every property except one in our street has a drive, some homes now have three or four cars hence the over flow onto the verges. We are on a bad curve so if a car parks it restricts access to the bottom of the street and mud spills on to the road from the churned up verge causing a further danger. Three weeks ago I placed three cheap solar lights into grass and I have to say no one has parked since. The grass is growing back although it has very deep ruts now!! Jjust walk down Gower Road for a very muddy grass verge trek

## 28. **Acomb**

I live on Boroughbridge Road, YO26 6AS, which is a major route in and out of the city. People do not regularly park on the verges, but the one outside my house has been damaged because it has been driven over a lot. It is unsightly. In addition, when the verge has been used for parking it becomes extremely difficult to pull out of the drive way as your line of vision is obstructed. There are a lot of cyclists on the road due to the proximity of Manor School, and so this is particularly hazardous. The verges on Wheatlands Grove in out area are also churned up quite badly. I would definitely welcome a clamp down.

Alternatively the council should look at selling verges made into proper parking spaces. Realistically many properties do not have enough space for the cars they own, so maybe the Council should recognise that tackling the issue will be expensive and is not a solution long term, but making neat spaces and selling or renting them out might raise more cash long term.

## 29. **Holgate**

Nursery Drive in Acomb used to be the flag ship of council homes but now it seems that as times go by the respect of the street has particularly gone down hill. The tenants are parking on the once very tidy grass verges there are pot holes in the grass it the grass looks like a ploughed field. To me, if people can afford a car then

why don't they convert their front gardens to hard stands, this will make the street clear for every one instead the drivers are just ripping up the grass verges the street is now very untidy. This street was once the proud flag ship of the council now a ploughed field.

30. **Clifton**

Grass verges in Rowntree Avenue, Clifton.



### 31. Heworth

Please see the attachment. This should show you the cause of the damage to the grass verge and resultant drain blockage



### 32. Micklegate

Could I highlight grass verges in the Terry Street area of Southbank for your campaign against parking and churning up grass from inconsiderate drivers.

I hope you are more successful than my Neighbourhood Team. I would be happy to get pictures if you think that would be helpful.

Destroying the verges in York will ultimately lead to further tarmac and concrete cover if it is not addressed successfully. I would be prepared to raise funds for the installation of "obstacles" such as trees and boulders if there was a clear legal position on such an approach.



**33. Westfield**

A lengthy e-mail in which the respondent highlights a number of issues. In order to avoid the risk of identifying the respondent, the e-mail text is not replicated here

**34. Dringhouses and Woodthorpe**

I want to complain about the grass verge outside my house. It is being used as a car park during the day and looks like a mud bath with constant tyre tracks on it.

I have lived at this address for fifteen years and own it. I have complained before, asking for yellow line to be put there or a row of stones?

**35. Heworth Without**

I was very interested to see the article in The Press about the state of grass verges in the city. We have similar problems in our parish area of Heworth Without, mostly caused by inconsiderate parking by residents outside their homes and by parents near to Hempland School during the mornings/afternoon school run. I have attached a few pictures taken this morning which should give you an idea of the damage which is being caused, although as the last couple of weeks have been dry, many of the areas are nowhere near as bad as they have been.





We are fortunate to have these grass verges in our neighbourhood, however, I do agree about the lack of clarity with regard to parking on them. The other issue is of course would be on how any potential new legislation would be enforced? I would be interested to know how you get on with your review.

### 36. **Heworth**

I read the article in the Press regarding "State of Grass Verges", I would like to include 5th Ave in the list of grass verges that have been ruined. The entrance to 8th Avenue off 5th Avenue and the entrance to Corbridge House off 5th Avenue have been churned up by council refuse vehicles. There is also many verges in 5th Avenue going towards Little Holfield Road. I do hope you will include these in your list, please.

### 37. **Acomb**

I Live in Cranbrook Road, Acomb off the Boroughbridge Road. Opposite my house is quite a nice, or was, longish stretch of grass without a lamp post on it i.e. a good straight run on and off. Gradually of course the whole plot is starting to get very unsightly with the grass being churned up into mud. I do believe the cars belong to houses on the other side of the road, not even outside



their own properties. Some houses have two or even three cars, as many as they wish as long as they keep them on their own property.

38. **Acomb**

I live in Almsford Road adjacent Carr Infant school. The verge outside my property is in a poor state due to it being used by people parking their cars inconsiderately when picking up/dropping off their children. I have contacted York council in the past on this subject but was told that "there isn't much we can do about it, it's not illegal unless causing an obstruction to pedestrians"



### 39. Holgate

I live in Hamilton Drive East in Holgate and delivery drivers and others park and pull up on the grass verges constantly. It is a shame as they look awful, it also blocks the view of the road for pedestrians and those trying to exit their driveways which is quite dangerous. I have attached a picture of the verge outside my house which recently a few vehicles have got stuck in. I personally think my road would be a much nicer place to live if parking or driving on these verges wasn't allowed.





#### 40. **Westfield**

I've just seen on York Press about parking on grass verges that basically we are getting put as careless. Well I park on the grass because the city of York council don't care about people's property, last year them massive bin wagons that are to big for our roads hit our brand new car and I had no proof to claim, we have been waiting 2 almost 3 years for a parking bay to be put in but instead putting them were they are not needed. So really they want people to stop parking on Verges they need to sort parking out.

See attached photo this is what the councils bin wagons do down our streets.





#### 41. **Heworth**

I'm delighted that notice is finally being taken about parking on the grass verges. I live on Seventh Ave, Heworth and put polite notices on windscreens when people park on the verge in front of my house. (I don't have a car.) Further along the road the verges are rutted, collect litter and generally look unsightly.

But there aren't enough parking spaces. Two things happen: where a dropped kerb which would allow cars onto forecourts without damage to verges is possible, this isn't done. Often the problem is with HMOs, though not always. People park on their own verges. Often the vehicles are works vehicles, and there are private cars belonging to the same house, so there isn't enough space to park with consideration for the verges.

On Fourth, Fifth, Sixth Avenues and Little Hallfield Road, people park and then walk into town, presumably to avoid the car park charges.

A solution would be to plant trees on the grass verges, thus preventing parking. On Little Hallfield Road there's waste land which isn't developed presumably because it's polluted (it's adjacent to St. Nicholas Fields which is contaminated). That could be cleared, concreted over and used for parking and if it had a nominal charge, and double yellow lines were painted on the 'problem' areas, the problem might be eased. I hope this helps. You aren't of course, one of my councillors (I'm in Heworth Ward) but the problem is widespread.

#### 42. **Osballdwick and Derwent**

We live in Osballdwick where there is the same problem. It seems that some motorists park their cars on the grass verge and footpaths as second nature. If they cannot park vehicles in their driveway then parking on the road would at least help to reduce the speed in which cars travel on residential streets.

Not only does parking on the verge damage the grass or make paving uneven it blights the area, it is dangerous and can cause difficulty for pedestrians with prams, pushchairs, shopping trolleys and mobility scooters using the pavement.

It would be good to know if this is illegal parking so that measures could be taken to deal with this problem. As more and more residents become car owners this problem will only increase. If more powers were given to the Parish Council to deal with this problem then perhaps it could be dealt with at a much earlier stage.

**43. Acomb**

The verge outside 12 Woodlea Bank, Acomb is denuded of grass due to constant parking on the verge. Thank you for your efforts in preventing this sort of thing.

**44. Holgate**

Grantham Drive in Holgate is now an eyesore because of multiple car/vans parking overnight on the verges. As the road is narrow many cars/vans and lorries clip the corners and the corner from Grantham Drive and St. Swithins Walk has huge grooves in the mud. So does Howe Hill Road corner.

People should put down standing that allows grass to grow through. Not enough people put grass friendly standing for cars on their front gardens, to allow rain to go through, preventing run off and flooding!

**45. Dringhouses and Woodthorpe**

In The Press the other day there was a piece about the state of the grass verges, which I must say are particularly bad following the very wet winter. One I would particularly mention is outside a home on Thanet Road between Jervis Road and Lidl. Although it is drying up slightly now, it has been very wet and muddy over the winter. I hope this is helpful

**46. Acomb**

I refer to your issue concerning grass verges that are ruined in my area [Cranbrook Road Acomb York, where some verges have no grass whatsoever]. In order to avoid the risk of criticising neighbours, this e-mail has had to be edited.

**47. Heworth**

Further to an article in 'The Press' regarding grass verges, there are various images and information you may find interesting.



For some time now the residents of St John's Walk (The Croft) have been experiencing issues with parking on the entrance to the development and have been requesting the main strip have waiting restrictions put in place. Although some of the issues are being addressed others are not.

In one particular case the resident management company of The Croft are having to pay CYC for them to install bollards on a grass verge that is owned by CYC to stop inconsiderate drivers parking and churning up the grass, CYC have taken a bleak view of this and simply stated they do not see this as a problem and that the grass will grow back in its own time. As you will see in one the picture above, it is a CYC maintenance van parking like this.

In another picture there is a van stuck on one of these grass verges when trying to pass an emergency vehicle (image1.jpg). In another 2 emergency vehicles are blocking the road (IMG\_1004), on this occasion a car mounted the pavement and drove along the path behind the ambulance to be able to get around, on the same occasion, as you will see a first responder car is also parked on the grass verge.



The final image attached is of the verge prior to the snow, as you will appreciate this is now much worse.

To resolve the issue, the resident's management company are paying to have bollards installed on these verges simply because CYC will not address the problem.





On another note, they have agreed to the installation of yellow lines, but rather than install them all the way down St John's Walk advise they are unable to review this claiming financial reasons, surely it makes more financial sense to attack the problem as a whole.

#### 48. **Dringhouses and Woodthorpe**

I read the article regards reviewing the state of grass verges in the City with great interest. I live in the Dringhouses area – Sandcroft Road were most of the grass verges are badly damaged from vehicle abuse. From my experience I have had issues with



motorists parking on the verge directly outside my house and I always catch up with them and have a polite and diplomatic word with them and find this usually works but it is a hard work, but the verge at the front of my house is probably the best in Sandcroft. Also I believe it is a vicious circle – the more inconsiderate motorists park on the verges just encourages other motorists to do likewise, hence it makes hard work for me to keep monitoring my own verge. ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN.

49. **Westfield**

Here is a picture of a verge in Queenswood Grove, it's one of three that are in an appalling state.



## 50. Fishergate

I was glad to see that this issue of damaged grass verges has finally been highlighted and Stephen you are going to review this matter and hopefully look at what actions can be taken to resolve this issue!

This is a big issue in the Fulford Cross Area, and one which we as residents and also members of Friends of Fulford Cross were proposing to speak to our Councillor, Andy D'Agorne about. The local residents in our area have worked hard over the past year to try and improve and maintain the area in which we live.

However the consistent driving and parking on the grass verges and the ultimate damage which this causes makes the area look awful and we are feeling exasperated as this issue seems beyond our control, hence we are glad that this matter is now being reviewed with the council.





We feel that there is a need for additional bollards on the grass verges to prevent this issue and deter people parking and causing further damage. Also a large portion of the surround of the green in Fulford Cross, has been turned in to mud furrows as a result of vehicles mounting the kerb and driving on the grass verge, so a remedy to this needs to be reviewed as bollards would not be a solution in this scenario.

I have attached several photos which will demonstrate the damage caused. We look forward to the results of your review and to hearing what actions shall be undertaken to resolve this issue.







## 51. Fishergate

The damage on the surround on the green in Fulford Cross is consistently driven over by the bin/recycling lorries which has been witnessed by myself and residents who live opposite the green. Outside our houses in the crescent to be honest is a combination of vehicles. Bin lorries drive over it every week when reversing into the crescent, which will usually have cars parked in it, so inevitably they mount the grassed kerb to fit in. However, people in cars and vans have also a tendency to park on it, many from both schools. Residents have raised this with people from the school whom they witness parking on grass verges, only to be totally ignored or be in receipt of rude responses.

It's such a mess, and horrendous in wet weather. I feel we have our hands full as it is, consistently having to pick up litter dropped in the Cross, trying to maintain the green and stop unruly youths from ripping our plants out, contending with anti-social behaviour from unruly youths etc. It would be great not to have to add this to the list of ongoing battles.

## 52. Haxby and Wiggington

With reference to the article in The Press dated 18 March 2016, will you please add the grassed area at the corner of Old Orchard and Cherry Paddock (facing No 1 Cherry Paddock) in Haxby to the list of grass verges damaged by inconsiderate parking. This has been reported to the council previously with no acknowledgement or action.

## 53. Holgate

I'm not sure whether you are the right person to write to as I'm in Holgate (Railway Terrace YO24 4BN) but we have the same damage being done here too and it's got extremely bad. Residents have tried planting flowers and even small trees to find they have been ripped up and cars parked there again. I attach some photos.



You can see that the gutters desperately need cleaning and we've agreed as a street to do it together, inviting the press to come and get a story to shame the council as they have ignored us.



I approached this driver and asked him to please not park there as it's damaging the tree roots. [He just swore at me.]

Please help us. I've written to our MP but the council have absolutely ignored us. I've started the process for signatures for a residents parking scheme (100% want it) and we need double yellow lines painted all the way along the other side of the road.

#### 54. **Clifton**

Please find attached a couple of images taken this afternoon (Thursday, 24 March 2016) on Burton Stone Lane between the junction with Field View and Crichton Avenue. I could have sent you more examples... only there were cars parked on the grass verges. I hope the pictures are helpful.





55. **Holgate**

Look at my lovely grass verge in Lindsey Avenue or what is left of it!



## 56. Hull Road

I was very interested in the article in The Press regarding the appalling state of some of the grass verges due to them been driven over and parked on.

This is a similar pattern in the Hull Road end of Tang Hall Lane YO10 3RA where this is a constant problem. Due to vehicles mounting the Kerb or vehicles parking on them outside my house and I would like to point out that the damage is not caused by anyone at this house or visitors. However where the bollards are in place along the grass verge no damage has occurred. As this street already has bollards I would like to see them extended in sets of three to protect the rest of the street.







**57. Haxby and Wiggington**

As per request, junction of Cherry Paddock and Old Orchard. Also photo of the path just north of Headland School.





## 58. Clifton

I read the short article in the York Press about the review into the state of grass verges and the request for examples of where they have been damaged.

I attach a few examples I took yesterday of the grass verges in Lumley Road ( YO30 6DB) where I live. Lumley Road is not very long and a cul de sac off Burtonstone Lane and near Bootham. At the end of the road is the pedestrian entrance to Clifton Green School and it is near the football ground. Along with other roads in the area contractors laid pipes for high speed broad band the length of both sides of the road in the verges.





I think you will agree that severe damage has been done to the grass verges and the description of the location gives indicators to possible reasons for the state of them namely:

- The contractors who laid the broadband pipes cut through the grass and occasionally heavy vehicles parked on the verges. As a result of the wet winter, tyre tracks have gouged marks in the verges. There has been no attempt to reinstate the verge on either side of the road and especially at the entrance to Lumley Road from Burtonstone Lane.
- Being near to Bootham it is used for all day parking, the roadway is not sufficiently wide enough for parked cars and passing vehicles so during the week cars are parked on the verge usually during working hours. A residents parking scheme was proposed but after a survey by the council the residents of Lumley road and the adjacent street, St Luke Grove, rejected a



proposal for residents parking , mainly, I suspect, because the scheme proposed by the council officers would create the additional cost of parking permits for the residents.

- Clifton Green School has two entrances, a pedestrian one in Lumley road and a vehicular one from Kingsway North which parents are not allowed to use. Twice a day many parents deliver their children to school by car via Lumley Road. As a consequence many park on the verges before turning around in the roadway using the verges. The school is aware of the problem but I see no evidence of any recent action being taken to either remind parents not to disrupt Lumley road or let them deliver children via the other entrance. I spoke to the local community liaison person of the school at ward meeting a few months ago but I have heard nothing since then.
- The proximity of the football ground does mean that parking on the verges is nose to tail when York City are playing at home with an inevitable effect on the grass.

I have listed these reasons to demonstrate that I appreciate that there are number of possible causes for the appalling state of the grass verges in Lumley Road and it cannot be blamed on one single cause.

Nevertheless, I think the combination of a wet winter and the heavy lorries of the contractor and the disruption of the grass created by the cabling programme has been a significant factor.

I am forwarding this e mail to my 2 local councillors because I am sure they are well aware of the state of these grass verges. There are other examples in Burtonstone Lane near the junction with Creighton Avenue.

I wish you well in your efforts to achieve an improvement in the condition of the grass verges in York.

## 59. **Dringhouses and Woodthorpe**

I was pleased to see the grass verge outside my house on Wains Road taking centre stage on the front page in our local Dringhouses Focus.

I would like to enlighten you as to how this verge became so damaged. On Sunday 14th Feb two traveller/scrap collector vehicles descended on the above verge to carry out some business. Upon leaving, one of the vehicles became stuck and churned the verge into the sorry state I now have to look at every day. My wife reported the incident to the police and gave the registration numbers more due to the dodgy dealing than the damage to the verge.

My wife reported the damage to the council help line on the 15th February and was issued with a job number 103074234. We also requested that bollards are placed along the length as this is not the first time damage has been caused to this section of verge, on all the other occasions I have rectified the damage but this time it is to far gone.

Approximately 3 weeks later we chased up the status of the job and were told "not to hold our breath as this job would only be completed if the teams had caught up on their other jobs".

I have received many comments from neighbours about the state of "my" verge and I personally think that all parking on our verges should be stopped and something like residential green belt should be adopted.

I take great pride in taking care of the grass outside my property, cutting, striping and edging weekly in season and even planting a bit of bedding to brighten the tree bases which were planted at my request a few years ago. I look forward to the council guys repairing the verge as soon as they can.

## 60. **Dringhouses and Woodthorpe**

I live in Dringthorpe Road and attach images of some examples of parking in the street.







## 61. Hull Road

I read with interest the reports in The Press of the complaints by residents of your ward about parking on highway verges. This is a longstanding issue in other wards in the city and elsewhere in the UK.

As an elected member for Hull Road ward during 2007-10, I found residents' concerns were greatest for student houses and, not entirely unrelated, parking on highway verges.

As far as parking on verges was concerned the residents' complaints were twofold: first, at the inaction of the council; and, when residents took action by placing stones etc on the verges, they were immediately threatened with prosecution by the council. (Some text removed).

I was able to make some progress in the worst cases via conventional solutions using area funding. But, as the photo of Tuke Avenue shows, conventional schemes are expensive, OTT and unattractive.

So the solution I explored was the idea of the council approving the design of a freestanding 'bollard' which met all the legal criteria and

which residents could buy from the council for use at specific locations.

I even went as far as approaching the design unit at York St John's about setting a short project for students to design a highway verge 'gnome'. But ill-health forced me to step down from the council.

Making progress as a junior Opposition backbencher is always difficult. However, you are in a better position. I therefore hope that you may be able to revive the concept and bring it to fruition.



## 62. Heworth

With reference to the article that was recently in the York Press about verges being damaged by inconsiderate motorists.

I live just off Heworth Green on St John's Walk. The development is just over eight years old and St John's Walk was recently adopted by the council.

At the end of the street is the York Community & Gymnastic Foundation facility hence traffic can be heavy at times.

During the eight years the Facilities Management Service provider for the development used to manage the parking on the development and there was no street parking allowed along St John's Walk so traffic used to flow freely.

Since the road was adopted people now park on the street which has essentially turned the road into a single lane and during heavy traffic tail backs occur.

The council have put some yellow lines in place but these have not been very effective. I will be contacting my local councillor on this issue.

This has had the consequence of people driving over the passive traffic calming measures which form part of the verge and also parking on the verge. Please see attached photographs that show this.

The combination of all this is having an impact on the quality of life for those who live on the side of the road where the irresponsible parking is taking place.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.





### 63. Dringhouses and Woodthorpe

I read the recent article in the Press about the state of grass verges and you asked that people report particular problems to you. I live at no. 5 Wains Road and the general state of the verges has been a big problem in this part of Wains Road for some time.

The road is quite narrow and so when people park I think they feel the need to get off the road and so they often put at least one set of wheels on the verges.

When two large vehicles meet it often forces one off the road and onto the verges in order to get past and of course the larger the vehicle, the worse the damage.

However, some residents also just seem to automatically park on the verges, regardless of the damage they cause, which is very disappointing.

The predominantly clay soil means the verges quickly get very wet and muddy and they stay that way for weeks and months during the winter and early spring.

I don't know how you deal with the issue as proving who is responsible is very difficult (thus making enforcement practically impossible) as it is often drivers who do not live in the neighbourhood (although certainly not exclusively) who do much of the damage.

In the stretch of road between no. 1 Wains Road and Trent Way, there are numerous deep ruts, holes and general damage to the verges. Aesthetically this looks terrible particularly after heavy rain (which is often) as the holes and ruts fill with water and they then become a wet, muddy mess which further compounds the problem.

I am not sure what the answer is as the narrowness of the road is part of the problem but have any solutions been discussed at all as this inevitably happens every winter?

Also, now that we are (hopefully) moving into the warmer, sunnier months and the verges start to dry out, can I ask that some repairs take place to them as the damage that one sees is at least 2 winters worth of mud and water splattered ruts and holes.

I know that money is very tight (I work for the council) but could the said ruts and holes be filled in and reseeded so that they at least look tidier and next winters starting point is not one of already badly damaged verges?

#### 64. **Westfield**

I read the article on the press website about the state of grass verges. I noticed that you had requested people "e-mail with examples of verges being destroyed by inconsiderate motorists".

I wondered whether, when you refer to these ‘inconsiderate motorists’, and the destruction that they are causing, you have considered places where there is no other option but to park on verges. I live in Carrick Gardens, Holgate. In my road, a number of the houses do not have driveways. However, the road is not wide enough for 2 cars to pass each other. Therefore, if you parked in the road without being partly on the verge, you wouldn’t be able to get round without having to mount the curb. This makes me wonder about if an ambulance or fire engine had to get down the road, they wouldn’t fit.



Recently, the council replaced the pavement in the street, at which point I asked if there was a possibility they could also widen the road or put in parking bays- the response I got was ‘not a chance.’ Therefore, the residents in the street have no other option than to park on the verges. The photo above shows what a mess it looks.



What I would like to know, is what other option do we have? The road comes off of Hamilton Drive, but cars parked on there already cause an obstruction and in the morning it can become a traffic jam up and down the road (a real hazard for children walking/ cycling to the local schools) because of parked cars. There are also times when there is zero visibility coming out of the side roads because of people parked on the main road. What other choice do we have than to be "inconsiderate" and "destroy" the verges?