

Cllr Roger Trigg
Cllr Darren Bennett
Cllr Sara Johnston
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Dear Panshanger councillors

Friends of Moneyhole would like to make a request for funding from the WHBC community chest. The chest as we know exists to fund small ward improvements which improve the quality of life for residents. We believe our request fits these criteria perfectly. After discussion with local residents and consultation with one of the country's leading parking equipment manufacturers, we would like you to endorse our proposal for an automatic rising step, or rising post, barrier at the entrance/exit to Moneyhole Lane car park.

There are ongoing problems with vehicle noise, and other vehicle-based nefarious late night activities at Moneyhole Lane Park, disrupting residents sleep and the quiet enjoyment of their homes. Residents have complained many times over a long period to the police but, as their resources are finite they cannot be everywhere, especially late at night when they have less cover, and the problem continues unabated.

Friends of Moneyhole understands this and feels an automatic step or post barrier would be a good permanent solution. It would be operated on a 7 day timer (adjustable), and it would only be raised overnight, at hours to be agreed. In addition a swipe card entry would allow PFC management access. Police and emergency services would also have a swipe card and cabinet key to effect entry, the same arrangement as other car parks. Exit for vehicles within the car park after the barrier has been raised for the night would be automatic, the barrier lowering to allow any vehicle to exit, courtesy of an inductive loop. This is normal practice for car parks of this type everywhere.

We feel that this approach would go some way to improving adjacent residents' lives. In the last couple of weeks we have canvassed those living nearby. 158 people have signed a petition in support of the proposal. The majority of the residents we spoke with on our door-to-door survey complained of ongoing disturbances at the car park late at night, some specifically mentioning drug dealing.

Whilst this measure will not resolve all the anti-social behaviour issues at the park, it would be a worthwhile return on investment for local residents. The quote we have obtained for the equipment and fitting ranges between twelve and fourteen thousand pounds, depending on the options chosen. After the warranty expires on the installation, a maintenance contract is available, if required, at around £500 per year. An electrical spur, from a nearby source (street lighting or pavilion) would also be required. Full costing details for the parking equipment installation can be supplied.

The community chest committed spend in Panshanger for 2008/9 was £2451.83. Out of the 17 wards in the borough, Panshanger received the third lowest allocation of committed funds from the community chest (according to the WHBC website). To put that into perspective, it appears that in 2008/9 Panshanger received just over one tenth of the amount committed to the ward of Northaw and Cuffley. As allocation of this form of funding is councillor driven, we ask that you all support this application wholeheartedly and move forward to fill out the community chest application document. The small annual revenue maintenance of £500 should be part of future Finesse budgets, or perhaps be drawn from the revenue expenditure portion of the community chest budget.

Most importantly, this ward improvement project will directly improve the lives of very many local residents in Panshanger, as well as deterring vehicle based or related crime. It is a win-win situation, as we are sure you will agree.

We are seeking your full support as our local councillors for this community proposal and a copy of our local resident petition is attached. We will wait ten days from today for a positive response. If after that period we have had no unanimous and unambiguous response, we will pursue our proposal at an appropriate council committee meeting in order to take it to a wider audience and to seek alternative support.

We look forward to your timely response and support for this new community initiative aimed at benefiting all residents in the Moneyhole vicinity. We are happy to meet you to discuss this petition at any time.

Best Regards,

FRIENDS OF MONEYHOLE

Date: 06th November 09

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