

Turville Heath Farm  
Turville Heath  
Nr Henley-on-Thames  
Oxon  
RG9 6JY  
Tel. 07701063303

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12/9/18

Open and public Letter to Turville Parish Council

**Complaints and concerns regarding my café activities**

**Parking**

For the past 23 years I have strived to discourage parking on Turville Heath. It was a shame in one sense as the Heath used to be covered in picnickers who parked anywhere on the Heath and sat by their vehicles. However, the problems caused after dark were intolerable and had to be stopped. The parking on Turville Heath, both legal and illegal has reduced dramatically since I took various steps.

The visitor parking has been curtailed by deliberately leaving high vegetation, placing branches and by approaching people and asking them to refrain.

Please be aware that the parking of vehicles 15 yards from the highway is totally legal. The parking at the crossroads is entirely legal and has been used since cars were invented. This can happen anywhere on any common. I would prefer it to be physically closed off completely, but that would restrict public access too much.

The parking of residents on common land which is not 15 yards from the highway is also illegal. I wasn't aware of this until the owner of the common, Charles Hoare-Nairne, made it clear in a publication to the entire Parish. The publication was delivered via the Parish Council. I and most other residents who were using the common to park stopped as we were able to make other arrangements. Some residents still persist, notably the owners of Turville Heath House (photo included). This makes it extremely difficult to persuade visitors to refrain when the residents are the worst culprits!

The open area to the front of my property has always been a target for illegal parking. I have placed logs and stumps from elsewhere on the Heath to prevent this. The owners of Turville Heath House have physically removed some of these to facilitate their illegal parking in front of my property. They are now back in place with the permission of Charles Hoare-Nairne.

I accept that when the limited parking on the crossroads fills up, there is a tendency for people to park elsewhere,(legally). This is highly annoying for me as the whole point of my enterprise is to encourage gentle tourism without attracting increased vehicular traffic. I am working out how over time I can prevent any parking on the Heath but this will take time.

I am passionate about providing facilities for and encouraging people to enjoy the Chilterns. It has been an incredible success and I believe that the very slight disturbance residents may have experienced is by far and away balanced by the enjoyment of so many.

### **Neighbour Complaints**

I am aware that the Bird family have written to the Council about my café activities. This is clearly as they blame the café for their house not selling. The fact that their house looks straight into my farmyard is obviously going to be a factor when someone looks at buying a rural property like this. Whether it's, cattle, sheep, pigs, tractor repairs, wood processing or any other activity I legally choose to undertake, it will affect some potential buyers decision to buy. I am astounded that possibly the most innocuous activity I could have chosen is not to their approval. A couple from Ibstone would love to buy their house, but the price is the issue. Their concern is to the contrary, that I might do something else in the farm yard!

I have changed my operations recently to move the café away from Turville Heath House, closer to my own. This has been necessary in any case to facilitate using the yard for over wintering my cattle. I trust the Birds will acknowledge my cooperation in expediting their house sale by going back to a cattle yard as it was immediately prior to starting the café.

### **Planning**

WDC have made a suggestion on how to move forward to formalise the use of my entire farmyard as both a café and agricultural use. They have instructed me to submit this application by October 5<sup>th</sup>. I intend to submit it sooner than that.

If any resident of the Parish has any other issues arising from my enterprise then I hope they can raise them with me directly. There have been some and I have addressed them, notably the tables on the Heath and organised cycling groups.

Kind regards

Robin Harman



