

# **Little Easton Memorial Hall**

## **Gate Locking Risk Analysis**

### **1 Introduction**

The MHMC is locking the car park gate at night to stop undesirable elements gaining access to the car park at night. Residents who need access to the car park at night can obtain the locking code from the Bookings Officer. As a result of the gate being locked, non-resident vehicle drivers using Manor Road, such as delivery drivers, are unable to turn around in the car park at night. They may either perform a three-point turn in the car park entrance or reverse back down Manor Road.

### **2. Scope of this Risk Assessment**

This risk assessment seeks to assess the increased risk to residents of accidents caused by vehicles reversing down Manor Road when the car park gate is closed, the times for which are:

- Between 9pm and 8am from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September
- Between 7pm and 8am from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> March

### **3 The Risk.**

Manor Road is poorly lit and drivers unused to the road may be unable to carry out a three point turn safely. These and other drivers could reverse back along the road which in parts is poorly surfaced.

### **4 The Impact**

Reversing along Manor Road at night or indeed at any time of the day carries a risk of an accident to a person who is in the road and out of sight of the driver. Such an accident could result in significant injury or death. There is also risk of damage to property due to poor reversing technique by the driver.

### **5 Number of Occurrences of Vehicles Reversing in Manor Road**

It is understood that the number of vehicles arriving after 9pm is very small and the number arriving after 7pm also relatively few. Residents who have a clear view of the car park and Manor Road report few, if any, occurrences of lorries reversing down Manor Road when the car park gates are closed.

### **6 Potential Mitigation Options**

6.1 Abandon the gate and leave the car park open. This would leave the village exposed to the undesirable elements the gate was put there to protect it from. All drivers would be required to turn around in the car park and it is likely that this would not be 100% followed. This is not considered a viable option

6.2 Require all drivers to carry out a three-point turn at the gate. Many drivers could refuse to do this due to the poor lighting and road conditions. Larger vehicles may be unable to do this. This is also not considered a viable option

6.3 Require all drivers reversing along Manor Road to proceed only with a safety guide walking in front of the vehicle to ensure the way is clear. This would be necessary for passage in either direction, up or down the road. Residents would need to be requested to ensure that this happens. It is unlikely that this would be 100% accepted by the residents. Again, this is not considered a viable option

## **7 Mitigating Factors**

All road users owe a legal duty of care to other road users and are obliged to take reasonable care to ensure any action they take or fail to take does not cause injury to another road user or damage to property. This applies to users of Manor Road in the same way as for any other cul-de-sac road in the village or elsewhere. Residents can reasonably expect drivers to be careful if needing to reverse down Manor Road.

## **8 Mitigating Actions that the MHC could take**

The MHC could put a sign on the gate to warn drivers of the risks of reversing down Manor Road when the gate is closed. i.e. along the lines of:

“Drivers - Please exercise extreme caution if intending to reverse down Manor Road. Please turn around if you can and, if unable to do so, be especially on the lookout for pedestrians and children.”

## **9 Summary**

Although the impact of this risk is high, the low occurrences of vehicles believed to be reversing down Manor Road during the hours of closure of the gate reduce the likelihood of the hazard occurring. Drivers of vehicles that need to reverse along Manor Road can be reasonably expected to do so with care. To further mitigate the risk, the MHC will install a new sign on the gate urging drivers to act with extreme caution should they need to reverse their vehicles along Manor Road. MHC will also put a statement in the Five Parishes magazine advising residents of this notice and, requesting them if possible, to bring it to the attention of visitors and delivery drivers.