

## Vehicles on the Common

From the mid 1980's there was nothing to prevent unauthorised vehicle access on to the Common. The five bar gate that was fitted when the playing fields were first laid out had long fallen into disrepair and was unable to be closed.

As football activity increased with the uncontrolled use of pitches and with no parking available, Club organisers starting driving vehicles onto the common to unload kit. This came to a head one wet winter Sunday when a car driven onto the far side of the Common got stuck in the mud after the match. After many attempts to extricate it the driver was forced to call a breakdown truck to tow it off. Then someone called the Police!

This situation was finally resolved on a sunny Friday in August when travellers arrived on the Common. Fast action by residents, Cllr. Cardy, who was then our ward Councillor, and the Police, saw the travellers move off the site in just a few hours.


Subsequently Cllr. Cardy arranged for a skip to be placed at the entrance to the Common. Although a temporary measure, it was there for quite a while, but did the job.

Below is a cutting from the Liberal Democrats news sheet from the time

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### Vehicle Access to Buckingham Fields

Several residents have contacted Jonathan and Maureen about unauthorised vehicles on Buckingham Fields including burnt-out cars. We have repeatedly brought this to the attention of Hampton Community College who own that part of Buckingham Fields. There was also a brief occupation by travellers in August, but quick action by the council and the police working together shifted them within hours. The Council has used a skip to temporarily block the Buckingham Road entrance. Jonathan Cardy has suggested to Hampton Community college that they secure their part of Buckingham Fields from access by unauthorised vehicles. This would ideally be with bollards or a ditch on the Tangley Park edge of the field and a lockable gate with a height restrictor where the skip now is.



Temporary skip blocking Buckingham fields