

Protect Conigre Hill car park



There's always somewhere to park on Conigre Hill – no problem. That's what estate agents now tell new home buyers or renters on the hillside terraces, Newtown and Market Street.

Well, maybe that advice used to be true. But we hillsideers haven't been able to rely on it since free parking was scrapped elsewhere in the town. So perhaps it's time to do something about it.

What residents could do is ask Wiltshire Council to transfer control to a community-interest company we run ourselves. This would not only help us stop spaces being blocked by non-residents but also stop the council selling off the site for redevelopment.

Although the council says it doesn't intend to sell Conigre Hill car park, there have been two attempts to build houses on it over the last few years. And the government has asked all councils to draw up lists of assets they might be able to sell off.

At the same time, part of the government's localism agenda is to "make it easier for local people to take over amenities and keep them part of local life". The

county council, too, aims to "promote the transfer of assets it owns to community groups".

We believe we have a draft plan that would fit in well with these policies. We reckon that – for £3 per member per week – we could both finance the transfer and maintain the car park better than now.

As you know, households on Middle Rank, Tory and other parts of the hillside have no direct vehicle access to their homes. Conigre Hill has been our lifeline for the last half-century. Our plan, we feel, would help keep it that way.

Overleaf we've tried to answer frequently asked questions. To see the full draft transfer plan, visit our website* or call 07927 305590 to ask for a print copy. To tell us what you think, click the survey link on the website, fill in the tear-off slip below or email us at hillsideaction@gmail.com.

Or come to our **open house** at Zion Baptist Church, from **12.30-2.30pm next Sunday (20 May)**, where we'll try explain the plan and gather your views.

* <http://hillsideaction.wordpress.com>

What do you think?

If you don't want to email, fill in our survey or visit the open house, tell us here. Or if you'd like to see a printed transfer plan.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return to 4 or 13 Middle Rank