

**To consider the use of the Station Car Park and consider any actions and associated expenditure.**

**Report to:** Station Property

**Date of Report:** 20.08.25

**Working Group / Cllr Writing the Report:** Cllr Miller

**Working Group / Cllr Recommendations**

Allow the car parking to be used by Trackside Cafe customers to improve accessibility and footfall

**Officer Recommendation:**

To approve a six-month trial period allowing GWR access to the car park strictly for general station maintenance purposes—such as emptying bins and cleaning shelters—and **not** for Network Rail or track-related works.

**Report Summary**

The cafe have reported a reduction in customers since the car parking became unavailable. It is located in an area where on-street parking is limited, and the hill makes access awkward even for the able-bodied.

Although the car park is primarily for users of the main space, it is rarely used, and even on those occasions often only one vehicle

Therefore it is mostly just sitting empty, and a wasted opportunity for use by customers who might be inclined to use the cafe as a destination for social activities. The cafe have reported a reduction use since the parking became locked off, and groups who used to use the venue have relocated due to parking issues.

It seems counter-productive for the council not to do all it can to help encourage cafe patronisation, and allowing potential customers the opportunity to park on site would be of significant assistance.

Now that the centre bollard is easily removable the cafe staff could be given the facility to open and close the area, with signs clearly stating the restricted usage. It is not envisaged this would compromise the limited use currently made by hirers

**Signature of Cllr**

Councillor Steve Miller

Further to the above, GWR has submitted a request to hold a key to the car park to enable their maintenance team to access the area when necessary during visits to Saltash Station. This access would be strictly for general station maintenance purposes—such as emptying bins and cleaning shelters—and **not** for Network Rail or track-related works.

The GWR maintenance team visits Saltash approximately three to five times per week and often experiences difficulty finding suitable parking. Granting limited access would support operational efficiency and demonstrate positive partnership working.

Saltash Town Council may wish to consider approving this arrangement on a trial basis, to assess whether the team can be trusted to use the space responsibly and park considerately.

**Signature of Officer**

Town Clerk