



CAR PARK PLANNING



INTRODUCTION

How a Club manages its car parking and access routes can have a major influence on travel behaviour, accessibility and the overall matchday experience. Well-planned car park management can support walking, cycling, carpooling and public transport use, while also improving safety, reducing congestion and lowering emissions around Club facilities.

This resource provides practical guidance to help football Clubs across Wales take a more sustainable approach to car park planning and site access. It supports Clubs to create safer, more accessible and environmentally responsible facilities for players, volunteers, supporters and the wider community.

Whether your Club owns its facility or works in partnership with a venue provider, many of these actions can be introduced gradually and adapted to suit different levels of infrastructure and available space.

This resource will support your Club to:

- Develop a more sustainable and efficient approach to car park management.
- Improve safety and accessibility around Club grounds.
- Support walking, cycling and public transport use.
- Reduce traffic congestion and vehicle emissions.
- Create designated areas for priority users.
- Plan future improvements to support active and sustainable travel.
- Support your Club's Together Greener Travel Action Plan.





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BENEFITS

Why Car Park Planning Matters

Car parks are often one of the busiest and most visible parts of a football facility.

Poorly managed parking can create:

- Congestion and delays.
- Safety risks for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Accessibility challenges.
- Unnecessary vehicle emissions.
- Pressure on local roads and communities.

By taking a more strategic approach to parking and site access, Clubs can improve the experience for everyone while also supporting wider sustainability goals.

Good car park planning can help Clubs:

- Encourage more sustainable travel choices.
- Improve safety for children and families.
- Support inclusion and accessibility.
- Reduce pollution and idling emissions.
- Make better use of limited space.
- Improve relationships with local residents and communities.



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CAR PARK DESIGN

Designing and Managing Vehicle Parking

Making Better Use of Parking Space

Well-organised parking areas improve safety, reduce congestion and help Clubs manage vehicle movements more effectively.

Even simple improvements can maximise the use of available space and improve the overall matchday experience.

Mark Out Parking Bays

Clearly marked parking bays help improve traffic flow and allow Clubs to allocate dedicated areas for different users.

Consider Designating Areas For:

- Carpooling vehicles.
- Accessible parking users.
- Coaches and minibuses.
- Club officials and volunteers.
- Electric vehicles.
- Cyclists and adapted bikes.

Where possible, consider introducing a:

“Reverse In, Drive Out” parking approach to improve visibility and safety when leaving spaces.





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PRIORITY USERS

Identify Priority Parking Users

Clubs should ensure parking arrangements support accessibility and sustainable travel priorities.

Priority Parking Could Include:

- Accessible parking close to facilities.
- Reserved carpooling spaces.
- Coach and minibus drop-off zones.
- Electric vehicle charging bays.

Priority parking areas should be:

- Clearly marked.
- Easy to access.
- Well lit.
- Monitored during busy periods where possible.



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MATCHDAY PARKING

Managing Matchday Traffic Flow

Large events and matchdays can create congestion both within Club grounds and surrounding communities.

Clubs Should Consider:

- One-way traffic systems where appropriate.
- Volunteer parking marshals during busy events.
- Separate pedestrian and vehicle routes.
- Temporary signage for overflow parking.
- Safe drop-off and pick-up points for children and teams.

Clear communication before events can also help reduce congestion and improve safety.





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SAFETY

Ensure Safe Pedestrian Routes Within Club Grounds

Pedestrians should be able to move safely between entrances, parking areas, pitches and club facilities without conflict with vehicles.

Clubs should Consider:

- Clearly marked pedestrian walkways.
- Traffic calming measures.
- Reduced vehicle speeds on site.
- Improved lighting.
- Safe crossing points.
- Accessible surfaces suitable for wheelchairs, prams and mobility aids.



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EMISSIONS CONTROL

Reducing Vehicle Emissions

Tackling Idling Vehicles

Vehicle idling contributes to unnecessary emissions, poor air quality and fuel waste, particularly around busy Club entrances and spectator areas.

Reducing idling can improve the environment around pitches and create healthier spaces for players, volunteers and supporters.

Clubs Can:

- Introduce a “No Idling” campaign.
- Install signage reminding drivers to switch off engines.
- Communicate anti-idling messages through social media and matchday communications.
- Ask coaches, buses and delivery vehicles to avoid unnecessary engine use.

This is particularly important around:

- Youth football activities.
- Spectator queues.
- Clubhouse entrances.
- Accessible parking areas.





ELECTRIC FACILITIES

Consider Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Where appropriate, Clubs may wish to explore electric vehicle charging facilities as part of future car park development.

This could support:

- Staff and volunteer charging.
- Supporters use during matches or events.
- Future sustainability goals.
- Partnership opportunities with local businesses or energy providers.

Clubs should assess:

- Electrical capacity.
- Demand and usage patterns.
- Location and accessibility.
- Potential funding opportunities.

For further information see the '[EV Charging Points](#)' resource within the energy section of the Together Greener Programme.





ACTIVE TRAVEL

Creating a More Active Travel-Friendly Club

Encouraging walking and cycling starts with making these travel options safe, visible and convenient. Clubs should consider how supporters, players and volunteers access the site and identify barriers that may discourage active travel.

Even small infrastructure changes can make a significant difference in encouraging more sustainable travel behaviours.

Provide Secure Bike Parking

Providing safe and accessible cycle parking is one of the most effective ways to encourage cycling to training sessions and matches.

Ensure bike parking is:

- Visible and well signposted.
- Located close to pitches or clubhouse entrances.
- Secure and easy to use.
- Accessible during all opening hours.

Consider:

- Covered cycle storage where possible.
- Additional space for adapted cycles and family bikes.
- Including bike parking within future facility development plans.





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Consider an Active Travel Entrance

Providing a separate entrance for pedestrians and cyclists can improve safety and encourage more people to travel actively.

Top Tips

If your Club already has a pedestrian or cycle entrance:

- Ensure it remains unlocked whenever facilities are open.
- Keep routes well-maintained and clearly lit.

If no separate entrance exists, consider:

- Ground markings or painted pathways.
- Bollards or traffic calming measures.
- Clear pedestrian priority signage.
- Temporary barriers during busy matchdays.

Where larger infrastructure projects are planned, consider incorporating:

- Dedicated walking and cycling access routes.
- Improved accessibility features.
- Wheelchair accessible pathways and entrances.



ACCESSIBILITY

Ensuring Everyone Can Access the Club Safely

Sustainable travel planning should support inclusion and accessibility for all members of the football community.

Car park and access planning should consider the needs of:

- Wheelchair users.
- People with mobility impairments.
- Families with young children.
- Older supporters.
- Neurodiverse users.

Clubs Should Consider:

- Accessible parking provision.
- Dropped kerbs and step-free access.
- Safe pedestrian routes.
- Good lighting and signage.
- Accessible spectator routes and entrances.





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PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Working With Facility Owners and Local Partners

Not all Clubs own or control their facilities directly. However, Clubs can still play an important role in influencing improvements. Working collaboratively can often help secure improvements that benefit both the Club and wider community.

Clubs Can:

- Share audit findings with facility owners.
- Highlight safety or accessibility concerns.
- Suggest improvements linked to sustainability goals.
- Collaborate on active travel initiatives.
- Engage with local councils and Active Travel teams.
- Support joint funding applications.

Monitoring and Reviewing Progress

Car park planning should be reviewed regularly as travel patterns and facility usage evolve.

Clubs should monitor:

- Parking demand.
- Traffic congestion.
- Safety concerns.
- Use of active travel facilities.
- Feedback from members and visitors.
- Travel surveys and audits can help identify future opportunities for improvement.



FURTHER SUPPORT

Improving car park planning and site access can help your Club create a safer, more sustainable and more accessible environment for everyone using your facilities.

You do not need to implement every action immediately. Start by identifying a small number of practical improvements that can make the biggest difference to safety, accessibility and sustainable travel.

Use what you have learned in this resource to:

- Inform one of your two mandatory Green Goals.
- Support your Club's Travel Action Plan.
- Improve accessibility and active travel infrastructure.
- Reduce congestion and vehicle emissions.
- Promote safer travel behaviours across your Club.

Even simple measures, such as clearer pedestrian routes, designated carpool spaces or secure bike parking, can significantly improve how people travel to and from your Club while supporting the goals of the FAW Together Greener Programme.

Further information on Travel can be found at www.faw.cymru/TogetherGreener-travel.

If you require support with this resource, please contact sustainability@faw.cymru