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Traffic Around Primary Schools Task and Finish Group

Tuesday, 29th August, 2017 at 5.30 pm
Howard Room, Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham

Councillors:

David Coldwell
Mike Morgan

Andrew Baldwin
Billy Greening

You are summoned to the meeting to transact the following business

Tom Crowley
Chief Executive

Agenda

	Page No.
1. Confirmation of Chairman	
2. Apologies for absence	
3. Declarations of Members' Interests	
4. Announcements	
5. To agree the terms of reference	3 - 4
6. To scope the review	5 - 14
7. To agree a programme of meetings and timescale for the review	

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Draft Terms of Reference for the Review into the Traffic Problems at Primary Schools in the District

(1) To examine traffic, access and other issues reportedly causing problems at primary schools in the District.

(2) To explore with other authorities what the Council can do to mitigate such problems.

Councillor David Coldwell

5th June 2017

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Note for Traffic Around Primary Schools Task and Finish Group

29th August 2017

This group has come about as a result of a meeting at the Upper Beeding Parish Council during which representatives of the primary school asked for the parish councils assistance in curbing antisocial behaviour, poor parking practices and general bad driving by people arriving at the school in the mornings, thereby placing children at risk.

From that meeting I gathered that other primary schools may have, probably do have, similar issues.

As a result of that meeting I asked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to form a task and finish group to have a look at the various issues, and having obtained the committees agreement I then went to the primary school before the term ended so that I could see for myself what some of the problems are. I was accompanied on this visit by the local county councillor and the neighbourhood wardens plus representatives from the school, and the chair governors.

Some of issues I observed were as follows:-

- Parking on double yellow lines
- Parking on the solid red line which indicates no stopping
- Parking on pavements and in front of a private house driveways
- Excessive speed in relation to the numbers of children using the footways.
- double yellow lines poorly maintained or obscured by leaf fall.

It should be noted here that the majority of children arriving at the school must cross at least one road and more likely two.

I was also advised that there have been incidents of antisocial behaviour and road rage by drivers who are in a hurry to get their children to school and themselves to work.

The school itself has done much to encourage parents to behave responsibly and the Parish Council itself has spent a considerable sum on providing a safe pathway route from the local car park about 500 m away. This safe walking route is only used by the children coming in from the car park or from the site and of the village and probably only accounts for a small number of all students. Many of the others do walk to school, often in smallish groups accompanied by an adult and are escorted across the various roads they encounter. However at the school itself there is no crossing warden as the County Council has not provided one and the school cannot afford to due to budget constraints

Having made this visit and met with representatives from the school it is clear to me that there are actions that could be taken by both taken by Horsham and West Sussex County councils to mitigate the risks that are attached generated about the school.

Councillor David Coldwell

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Governing Body

Upper Beeding Primary School

School Road, Upper Beeding, BN44 3HY.

Tel: 01903 812288

Fax: 01903 816401

Email: ubpsgovernors@yahoo.com

Website: <https://upper-beeding.eschools.co.uk/site>

Chair: Mr N Pringle Clerk: Ms L Brown

Thursday 6th July 2017

Dear David,

Once again, thank you for your time today and in initiating a wider team engagement in helping us address the continuing road safety issues at Upper Beeding Primary School.

As discussed, this letter is to provide you with the information which was shared with the team today – we hope very much it will help you drive forward the initiatives and gain the support the children at Upper Beeding very much need.

We have had an on-going parking issue which has created road safety issues for a number of years now. As our school role has increased so has the problem. This last year we have made it a significant priority of the governing body to find ways to attempt to resolve this issue once and for all.

This began with a survey to all parents from which we received a tremendous response with over 130 replies. This survey gave us some key information and demonstrated the frustration and concern this issue causes for parents on their way to school. I have attached the quotes I referenced to you on the following page – there are many more quotes we can also provide.

It is frightening that 2 in 3 parents claimed to have personally witnessed an incident where someone could have been hurt. I myself have witnessed 3 in the time since the survey was taken.

Enforcement is widely supported by the parents with 84%, agreeing or strongly agreeing, that parking restrictions should be enforced including the use of penalty notices.

We know we have frustrated, concerned but a supportive majority of parents.

Based on the feedback we have developed a 3 pronged strategy which has been pursued strongly this year. That strategy includes

1. Ensuring the best possible **infrastructure** is in place
2. **Educating and communicating** with parents, children and the wider bodies who can support our cause
3. **Enforcing** - this is where we are in need of your help the most.



We have achieved the following by pursuing this strategy this year – and are grateful to all those who have helped on this journey so far.

1. Infrastructure

- a. New path in place from local car park to school – providing improved accessibility to parking.
- b. New school car park layout will happen over the summer increasing the number of spaces from 25 – 40.
- c. We operate a permit parking scheme for parents in exceptional circumstances to park on site for drop off and pick up.
- d. The zig zag lines which were very worn have been repainted
- e. We are awaiting other markings to be repainted and cleared before the end of term.

2. Education and communication has included:-

- a. New news on road safety is communicated to parents every term in a variety of ways, it reminders on parking restrictions, informing of line painting, presence of community wardens, advising of alternative parking options.
All of which ensures a constant parking reminder is happening.
- b. A short film has been produced and shared with parents and our website showing the dangers of bad parking through the eyes of a child walking to school.
- c. We are raising parking at new parent inductions and producing parking packs to encourage and drive new behaviours
- d. We have visited, council meetings, district and parish meetings to engage with those who can help outside of the schools influence.
- e. Pene Mather engages with UBPS, we operate a park and stride scheme and have involved the school council (*a children's council*) in addressing the problem.
- f. Competitions have been run for the children to draw road safety posters ensuring the message gets home also via children.
- g. Assemblies have been held with children on road safety - how to keep ourselves safe and how drivers can help children to be safer
- h. The school actively takes part and promotes national Walk to School Weeks in October and May collecting data and updating school travel plan

3. Enforcement

- a. Our head teacher is on the gate daily speaking to parents and encouraging changes in parking behaviour (*this is only a small part of the reason for her presence on the gate*).
- b. We encourage parents to use Operation Crackdown
- c. Parents themselves speak to other parents about parking inappropriately.
- d. As governors we speak to those parking inappropriately.
- e. We have community wardens who visit – although they can not enforce their presence is welcome.

We hope you will agree we are working hard to proactively prevent an accident. As however you will have seen and heard this morning – we need more help.



The help we discussed in our meeting particularly for random enforcement of penalty notices on a once every half term basis, may be the key factor we really need to prevent the accident no one wants to happen.

We look forward to an early response and please do get in touch if we can provide any more information to assist.

Many thanks again for your support.

Best wishes,

Julie Krysik
Governor
On behalf of UBPS Governing Body

Becky Linford
Headteacher

Quotations from parents on their views on the parking situation

Source UBPS Governors parking survey

- ***Awful! Parents who park illegally & put children at risk because they can't be bothered to walk a couple of minutes defies understanding. Action needs to be taken against repeat offenders***
- ***Hazardous, reckless parking and aggressive driving.***
- ***There is no safe place for children to cross at all***
- ***People do not take notice of very worn out paint markings around the school.***
- ***Parking restrictions blatantly disregarded***
- ***I would like to see safer places for children to cross the road***
- ***Very dangerous – seen many near misses***
- ***Daughter almost hit by a parent reversing. Someone will get hurt – it's chaos.***



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Email correspondence on Traffic Around Primary Schools Task and Finish Group
August 2017

Pene Mather & David
Barling

Dear David

To request a School Crossing Patrol (SCP) assessment, we need the following information

Identified Crossing Point location

Any supporting evidence of issues at this location.

Once the site is assessed by the SCP team they will contact the school with a result of the assessment, if the site meets criteria then this could progress to recruitment of a paid position.

If the site does not meet criteria then the school could still have a SCP but it would need to be a volunteer position

Via this email I am asking Stuart and Louise who lead on SCP to give you more information about the process.

In both cases equipment and uniform is supplied by WSCC.

Do let me know if you need any further help.

Kind regards

Pene

Pene Mather

Local Transport Improvements Project Officer

Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways and Transport

West Sussex County Council

I attended a meeting at Upper Beeding School to discuss the numerous parking problems and parents crossing the road into the school in the mornings in particular. One of the issues which we discussed was whether or not it would be possible to have a lollipop person and I do not what the criteria for this is and how they are obtained and where they get their equipment from etc etc.

Could you please brief me on this subject so that I can respond better to Mrs Linford.

Kind regards,

David Barling

Julie Krysik	<p>Hi all,</p> <p>Thank you everyone who made the time and effort to be at the School today. We are delighted to have such support and positive combined action, building on the work already undertaken. We really look forward to our meeting turning into visible actions.</p> <p>My notes on agreed actions were taken as follows - please feel free to add / amend if I have captured anything incorrectly or missed something.</p> <p>Facilitating the working team and engaging with wider groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supply a summary of the information shared this morning – JK• Ensure an impact feedback loop operates on successes e.g. the impact of the path – JK / BL• Engage with the Horsham teams – cabinet and parking – DC• Engage with Penny Mather updating on this meeting (DB – I think you said you would do this is that right?)• Engage with Parish council on meeting outputs and continuous updates – SB• Engage with WMTrust on support – DB / SB <p>Appropriate Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure yellow single lines painted – SD<ul style="list-style-type: none">o They were commissioned 5 days ago and have to be completed within 28 dayso We anticipate they will be in before the end of the summer term• Seek routes to ensure continuous clearing of the leaves under chestnut tree / corner church lane / school road which currently obscure the yellow lines - SB• Improve signage - more emotive visible signs that are removable from side of road (we discussed a-boards and water based weighted signs – which we could put out at pick up and drop off) - engage with parish council and WMtrust for investment – DB• Seek funding and understanding of how lollipop people could be engaged and funded – DB / SB<input type="checkbox"/> At the crossing point to the school on school road<input type="checkbox"/> At the Hyde square to monks walk cut crossing point• Seek funding and support for planters or other aesthetic blocking on school road / church lane corner to prevent vehicles parking on the pavements - SB with SD / highways <p>Communication and Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to communicate with parents and children regularly – UPBS• Continue to promote operation crackdown to parents – UPBS <p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drive the enforcement of inappropriate parking – through Horsham parking wardens - DC<ul style="list-style-type: none">o We are seeking random visits one per half term – either morning between 8.40 and 9.55am or evening between 3.05 and 3.20pmo Visits are to be enforcing on school road lines but also the surrounding streets which create blockages where people park on corners, creating hazardous crossing points –
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	<p>e.g. Priors Walk, Priory Field, Monks Walk, Saltings Way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the meeting the community wardens agreed with myself they would visit randomly each half term, one drop up and one pick up and also and would be more able to speak to people when the lines become are repainted. <p>Thank you all for showing such support. We look forward to hearing more quickly. If there is anything more we can do please keep in touch.</p> <p>I can be contacted via school, on the above email address or my mobile.</p>
Simon Birnstingl	<p>As requested, my summary of the UBPC perspective on the matters discussed this morning.</p> <p>Firstly, the PC asked me to make three points: they suggested that though there were similar problems at pick up and drop off, the afternoon problems were different and often worse. Second they wanted me to enquire about whether there was an up-to-date school travel survey. Finally they suggested that an emergency services drive-through might be arranged to illustrate the problems. All of these matters were dealt with this morning.</p> <p>I left with the following actions for the PC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We will look at clearing the leaves at the junction of Church Lane and School Road to reveal the yellow lines. 2) We will consider the use of planters to prevent cars from using the pavement at the western end of School Road. (Consultation with WSCC Highways needed). 3) We are ready to consider helping with a lollipop person, subject to consultation with Penny Mather (Safer Routes to School) and funding suitability. 4) We are ready to consider helping to fund extra A-frame signs or similar in association with bodies such as Wilson Memorial Trust and S&ad C P. <p>Please let me know if I've missed anything.</p> <p>I'd like to add that I'm pleased that at last progress is being made!</p>
David Barling	<p>Dear John,</p> <p>Thank you for your email last evening. This is not a WSCC matter but I think this falls either within the parameter of the Upper Beeding Parish Council or in the alternative Horsham District Council and for that reason I am copying your email and this response to David Coldwell and Ben Staines who are the Local District Councillors and to Simon Birnstingl who is the Chairman of</p>

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	<p>Upper Beeding Parish Council. Hopefully they will be able to deal with this matter.</p> <p>With kind regards,</p> <p>David Barling</p>
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