

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