



**St Nicholas Primary School**

**Parent Council Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2017**

**Present:** Andy Weir, Chair, Parent Council; Gordon Brown, Road Safety Manager, West Lothian Council; PC Ross Andrew, Community Police Officer, Broxburn; Chris Horne, Councillor, West Lothian Council; Diane Calder, Councillor, West Lothian Council; Janet Campbell, Councillor, West Lothian Council; Karen Brown, Head Teacher; members of St Nicholas' Parent Forum

**Apologies:** Angela Doran, Councillor, West Lothian Council

Andy welcomed all to the meeting, and stated that the outcome of the evening's meeting was to ensure safe journeys for children.

**Historic issues with our school parking**

Karen gave an outline that traffic continues to be an issue around all schools and in that respect St Nicholas is no different. She advised about all the efforts the school had undertaken to prevent parking around the area, giving an account of the work she and the school had undertaken with the Junior Road Safety Officers. Other work included patrolling the turning points (staff and children) and continuing to feed the message through to parents using a variety of different media. Karen has been advised that the Strathbrock Partnership Centre is a public car park, and so parents are free to use it.

In the summer holidays, the school has met with police and Health and Safety from West Lothian Council to discuss traffic issues around Blyth Road. The turning point off Blyth Road is open for drop off in the mornings. In the evenings, it does not work as well because parents need to 'collect' their children and while the bell rings at 15:00, not all children leave the building at once. At this meeting, it was agreed that the turning point might not be safe in the evening and that opening it in the evening could cause congestion leading out onto Blyth or even further afield up to the A89.

Councillors in attendance outlined that some constituents have complained over the years that there have been issues around Badger Park, but these have now extended to Woodville Court and Blyth Road. This includes over residential driveways causing them frustration and inconvenience. There was also reference to some vulnerable users of the Partnership Centre having difficulty getting to appointments at "peak" times due to the volume of school-related traffic/parking.

**Possible Solutions**

Police presence around the school to clamp down on illegal/inappropriate parking. It was felt that as parking on zig-zags is a road traffic offence with a penalty of £100 and 3 points on your licence, enforcing this would send out a strong signal. PC Andrew noted that the police have finite resources

and can't be present all the time, however corroborated reports of bad/illegal parking can be investigated.

Diane Calder felt that the issue was how to get the Blyth Road turning point working successfully in the evening.

In response to a question from a parent, Janet Campbell stated that if parents were parking in Blyth Road if safe, legal and considerate you are perfectly legal to do that.

A parent suggested widening the road and consider a layby for additional parking. Gordon Brown felt that the cost would be prohibitive, for a very small number of car parking spaces.

Janet Campbell asked Gordon Brown if HGV's could be banned from travelling down Blyth Road. He said that the way to do this was to introduce a narrowing system similar to the one in operation at Newbridge. The consensus seemed to be that this would disrupt the flow of traffic.

There was also a discussion about adding double-yellow lines on Blyth Road, however Gordon Brown shared his view that adding lines would solve people parking there, it would push the problem to other locations (further into Woodville Court for example) and also likely increase average traffic speed on Blyth Road due to the road being clear of parked vehicles. Solving one road safety issue would create another one.

A parent asked how many complaints had actually been received from residents. At surgeries Diane said that she had had 4 complaints over a period of a month.

#### **Actions to be taken**

- Agreed that as a parent body, all parents would report incidences of illegal parking to the police.
- To continue to have a high profile in terms of JRSO and in newsletters and from the Parent Council.
- Parent council to ask partnership centre for two half hour slots in the morning and in the evening (in the staff bays)
- To increase the signage around Blyth Road – Andy Weir is already working on this with the P6s.
- Karen Brown to arrange a trial opening of the turning point at all times – with the support of local police
- Gordon Brown - To investigate the possibility of Council putting double yellow lines on Blyth Road, however this may prove to be counter-productive as mentioned earlier. Gordon also agreed to look at the use of zig-zag and solid white lines to make sure these are having their maximum impact
- Creation of a sub group of the Parent Council to deal solely with the traffic management issue - Andy Weir to work with councillors to create this group
- Summary of the meeting to be issued to all parents – AW/LMcG

**Post-meeting notes** – Councillor Chris Horne has been in contact with Gordon Brown about the road markings in the Strathbrock Partnership Centre Car park. Following a site visit, some remedial work

will be carried out to improve the markings in the short-term before proper works are completed to improve the footpath and road surfaces from Main Street in 2018.

KB has, in liaison with local police, agreed that the turning point should be open for a trial period from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2017.

DRAFT