

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD
DATE: 13 June 2011
SUBJECT: Tunstall School, Tunstall Road
BY: Transportation and Development Manager
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: A report on parking outside Tunstall School
Decision Required: To note report

Introduction

Complaint has been received from residents who live opposite the entrance to Tunstall School that parking is creating additional hazardous conditions on the road. They request that parking restrictions be applied to regulate this.

Discussion

1. With parents having a choice of schools there is a tendency to drive to popular schools. At virtually every school at the start and end of the daily session culminates in a significant number of parents arriving by cars to drop off/pick up their children. This often leads to a period of congestion but not necessarily a safety problem. Indeed the congestion tends to calm vehicle speeds. Parking enforcement is carried out by the Districts and/or the Police where restrictions have been applied. The local traffic police are the only authority who can currently enforce obstruction and if necessary move the offending vehicles.
2. Introduction of parking restrictions would require rigorous enforcement by the Borough Council to make them effective. A recent test case has concluded that yellow lines (but not zig zags) to tackle parking near schools are no longer a suitable option. The adjudicator made the judgement that dropping off and collecting school children was classed as "loading and unloading", for the purposes of enforcing parking on yellow lines. As such we have been advised that the installation of yellow lines in the vicinity of schools would be ineffective as parents would be permitted to park on these restrictions.
3. A requirement of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 is for all Local Authorities to promote sustainable travel to school and inform existing and prospective pupils, parents and staff of the provisions in place to enable them to travel to school by means other than the private car.
4. The Council has to target its limited funding for transport schemes given the significant reduction in capital funding for transport that is anticipated over the next few years. Priority for schemes is normally assessed on whether there is a pattern of personal injury crashes occurring at any particular location (a cluster) and that engineering (crash remedial) measures can be devised to try and reduce them. Information relating to crashes is recorded on a Crash Data Base that originates from data collected by the Police when an injury road collision is reported to them. There is no requirement for the Police to collect or report damage only crashes and therefore the information only relates to crashes resulting in personal injury. I can report that there is no record of personal injury crashes along this section of road for the last 3 year period up to 31st December 2010.

Decision Required

To note report

Contact Officer: Mr S. Huckle