

Swale Joint Transportation Board

12 December 2011

Tabled Papers for Item No. 6

There are also copies of photographs distributed around the Council Chamber.

These papers have previously been emailed to Members.

Tunstall
Kent
ME9 8DX

7th December 2011

Dear Sir

For the Attention of The Chairman, Swale Joint Transportation Board - Meeting Monday 12th December 2011

Re: Agenda Item No.6 Tunstall C E (Aided) Primary School, Tunstall Road – Traffic and Parking Issues

We would like to lend our support to the Tunstall Parish Council in their endeavours to acquire parking restrictions outside Tunstall School, as we do not consider the recent Highways Officer's report to be a true reflection of the serious traffic problems in Tunstall village.

The parking problems in Tunstall Road, outside the School's front entrance and at the junction along Hearts Delight Road have progressively worsened in recent months to dangerous levels and we fear a serious accident will occur.

We would like our views, along with other Tunstall residents and neighbours, to be seriously taken into account by the JTB and the KCC Highways Officer's recommendations for "no further action to be taken" rejected and the matter to be progressed.

Please can you notify us in writing that you have received our letter of concern and that it will be listed on the agenda for Monday 12th December 2011.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Bushell & Mrs M Philpott



For the attention of The Chairman
Swale Joint Transportation Board

Meeting Monday 12th December 2011

Dear Sir

Re: Agenda Item No 6 Tunstall C E (Aided) Primary School, Tunstall - traffic and parking issues

Further to my previous submission, I have read the reports from Kent Police Officer PC Warren Jarvis, and KCC Traffic Engineer Mr Steve Darling, and wish the board to take into account, that this was following their attendance for less than 1 hour.

With regard to the report by PC Jarvis, It is most unusual for residents in the village to use the layby, as normally school staff start arriving by 7am (sometimes earlier), and I have offered to supply PC Jarvis photographic evidence of vehicles parked in the layby during the day so that PNC checks could confirm who is using the layby, however, he stated that the Police are only able to enforce, and I should direct my enquires to yourselves.

Furthermore, his report also states that it's the parents who are dropping off/collecting children who are parking on the road, directly outside the school. This is not the case, as once again, it is school staff who park outside the school, some of which are there all day. There may be the odd occasion when parents are dropping off, but mostly this will be before 9am.

If, as stated PC Warren it is the residents using the layby, may I suggest two alternatives.

- 1) Close the Layby
- 2) Put timed parking restrictions on the layby, say 30mins maximum, with no return within 3 hours

Again, if it is supposed to be parents that are dropping off/collecting outside the school, then yellow zigzag lines would not stop them from dropping off etc, but would stop vehicles parking all day.

One other thing that is worth mentioning, is that the 6 houses opposite the school are not on mains drainage. We have a cesspit and trying to get this drained without blocking driveways is a nightmare.

Please find a copy below of a letter which can be obtained by accessing Tunstall School website, <http://www.tunstall.kent.sch.uk/letters.asp>. It clearly states that parents should not use the layby or on the road outside of the school!

18 October 2011

Dear Parents

To ease arrival and pick up times and following complaints from local residents, parish council and community wardens, may I urge you to adhere to the following:

Please do not park on the main road outside the front of the school or in the lay-by opposite. These spaces are desperately needed by school staff who are not permitted to park in the Village Hall car park and for pupils being collected/returning during the school day e.g. Swimmers

Do not park on the grass/mud verge in Hearts Delight Road.

Please bring children into school from 8:45 – 8:55am. Gates are locked at 8:55am for the security of the children; therefore please vacate the premises before this time.

Due to limited space within the school buildings, please leave pushchairs/prams outside.

Please do not arrive in the Village Hall carp park before 3:10pm (KS1), 3:25 (KS2) and pick up by car 3:35pm. If no car parking space is available please do not double park, abandon your car blocking others, or send a non-driver to collect your son/daughter whilst the driver remains in the car blocking the outer queue – we will keep your KS1 children safely in class until you are able to park properly

Thank you for your support on these issues.

Yours sincerely
Mrs K Hutchings
Headteacher

As you can see, the school themselves are advising parents not to use the layby or park on the road outside of the school, including this week, when we have traffic lights in the village, the school staff have continued to park on the road outside the school, giving other traffic the impression that they are “cueing” up when in fact, they are waiting behind parked cars.

With regard to the report submitted by Mr Darling, I should like to point out various queries under the following item numbers on his report.

- 2.2 (It is not just local “Sittingbourne” children that attend, it is Kent wide)
 - 2.3 (Staff had been allocated 6-8 parking spaces in the new village hall, but abused the offer by taking more spaces and lost the allocation. Further spaces have been offered and refused)
 - 3.6 (Hardly surprising that with two highly visible police officers standing on a high verge, that drivers behaved themselves. It was a shame that once the officers had left, the staff cars exited the village hall car park and reverted back to their normal positions)
 - 3.7 (The school hold a key for the padlock for the gated entrance to the village hall car park)
 - 3.8 (Mr Darling has been receiving regular photos from residents. May I again submit a few of mine taken recently)
 - 4.4 (The planning application for the front of the school was not withdrawn, but REFUSED by KCC
2. I have to inform you that the County Planning Authority under the Town and Country Planning Act on 14 June 2005 has **REFUSED PERMISSION** for development of the above proposal.

The grounds for such refusal are:

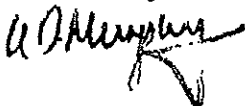
1. The proposal would harm the character of a Conservation Area and would not serve to ensure that the special character and appearance of the Conservation Area is preserved and enhanced, contrary to Policies ENV15 and ENV17 of the Kent Structure Plan 1996, Policies QL1 and QL7 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (Deposit) September 2003 and Policy E36 of the Swale Borough Local Plan 2000.

And

In addition please be advised of the following informative:

The School is to be advised that the current temporary car parking at the front of the school can no longer be tolerated and negotiations should be actively pursued to find alternative staff parking facilities.

Yours faithfully



Head of Planning Applications Group

The situation is getting worse as residents are regularly having to take abuse from parents and in some cases staff. The reason for the traffic is are the mobile classrooms at the school, the single one (planning application pending) was where some of the school staff parked.

Following a parish council meeting the school sent a letter to parents advising that the side & rear gates would only be open from 8.45 – 8.55am so as to allow staff cars to drive through the playground to gain access to the front of the school for parking, under Health & Safety for the children) despite being advised that they should not be parking there anyway!. The school operates a "breakfast club" open from 7.45 am which access is also via the front of the building, whilst staff cars are being parked.

The schools own travel plan states that "The road is too restrictive, busy and dangerous to encourage any cycling to school" and also states that only 18 staff drive to school. If this is so, how come on 30th November 2011 for instance, there were 9 cars at the front of the school, 7 cars in the layby and still 5 on the road outside on the road.

There is one other alternative which Mr Darling has not mentioned. The "old" school field, the land is owned by KCC, and although there is a public footpath round three of its four sides, why can the "fourth" side not be turned into a car park for the school. KCC are still funding it being cut, as well as cutting the leased field that the school use. As some staff are already supposed to use the church car park, it would seem to be an obvious solution.

Yours sincerely

Allyson Spicer

Iunstall



Philippa Davies

From: [redacted]
Sent: 09 December 2011 10:14
To: Philippa Davies; Democratic Services
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Joint Transportation Board Meeting 12th December 2011 - Agenda Item 6 Tunstall School
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Dear Ms Davies

I've sent this email to the Headteacher of Tunstall School this morning regarding the parking issues outside Tunstall School. I know the matter will be discussed at the JTB on Monday and would like this added to the agenda to press the point to Councillors that there are indeed traffic safety problems here which must be taken note of.

I would be grateful receive an acknowledgment that you have received this.

Kind regards

Mrs T Mills

[redacted]

Tunstall
 ME9 8DX

From: [redacted] (mailto:trish@mills@btinternet.com)
Sent: 09 December 2011 09:57
To: [redacted]@tunstall.kent.sch.uk
Subject: Parking issues outside the School's front entrance

Dear Mrs Hutchings


Please would you be so kind enough to send a letter out to parents to remind them not to block, or partially block, residents' drives when they drop off children at the School's front main entrance. This is because it is extremely dangerous for us to exit (and enter) our drives, around the parked cars, and pull out onto the main carriageway, which is often onto on-coming traffic with the staff cars parked opposite – making the road a single lane.

Honestly, we simply cannot see the road and it worries us that children and visitors are crossing here to go in the School's front entrance. Most parents are really good and use the village hall car-park, but it seems to be the same ones that park outside the School's front main entrance and get their children out when traffic is passing and block drives with little regard for any child safety, including their own. It is not necessary for parents to block our drives (or indeed park at the front of the School by the fence) as they are perfectly entitled to use the village hall car park to drop off which is a safer option anyway – or walk.

The lady partially blocking my drive for about five minutes this morning in an Audi A4 (Reg No: Y623 TKC) – basically told me that I live opposite a school and to get on with it. We do accept that we live opposite a school and expect a certain amount of disruption, but not blatant inconsideration and disregard for pedestrian and child safety.

Kind regards

Mrs T Mills


Tunstall
ME9 8DX

18 October 2011

Dear Parents

To ease arrival and pick up times and following complaints from local residents, parish council and community wardens, may I urge you to adhere to the following:

- Please do not park on the main road outside the front of the school or in the lay-by opposite. These spaces are desperately needed by school staff who are not permitted to park in the Village Hall car park and for pupils being collected/returning during the school day e.g. Swimmers
- Do not park on the grass/mud verge in Hearts Delight Road.
- Please bring children into school from 8:45 – 8:55am. Gates are locked at 8:55am for the security of the children; therefore please vacate the premises before this time.
- Due to limited space within the school buildings, please leave pushchairs/prams outside.
- Please do not arrive in the Village Hall carp park before 3:10pm (KS1), 3:25 (KS2) and pick up by car 3:35pm. If no car parking space is available please do not double park, abandon your car blocking others, or send a non-driver to collect your son/daughter whilst the driver remains in the car blocking the outer queue – we will keep your KS1 children safely in class until you are able to park properly

Thank you for your support on these issues.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Hutchings
Headteacher

12 May 2011

Dear Parents

Re: Breakfast Club Arrivals

To ensure the safety of all pupils arriving for Breakfast Club parents are required to follow the procedure below:

- All those attending Breakfast Club must use the front entrance of the school.
- All pupils must be **accompanied into the school building** by an adult (please be aware that some staff cars may be arriving at this time)
- Parents must ensure that their child is handed over to a member of the Breakfast club staff **before leaving the building.**

I am aware that this may take a little longer when arriving for Breakfast Club but it is imperative that your child arrives safely at school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Hutchings
Headteacher

23 March 2011

Dear Parents

In order to comply with safeguarding procedures, we are making changes to our early morning arrangements to be in effect from Monday 28th March.

As from that date, all gates at the entrances to the school site will be locked until 08:45. Children attending Breakfast Club will be able to enter via the front entrance and will then need to press the bell situated to the left of the office hatch, which will silently trigger a pager held by a member of the Breakfast Club.

Parents needing to drop children at school prior to 08:45 will be pleased to know that there are spaces available at Breakfast Club and the sliding scale of minimal charges (dependant on time supervision is required to start) is available on request, Breakfast Club starting daily at 07:45.

I am sure that you will support this new venture aimed at ensuring that all children are safe before the start of school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K R Hutchings
Headteacher



Diocesan Architectural Services Ltd
Diocesan House
Lady Woottons Green
Canterbury
Kent
CT1 1NQ

Fao: Mr D Booth

Planning Applications Group
First Floor, Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XX
Fax: (01622) 221072
Tel: 08458 247303

Direct Dial/Ext: (01622) 221058
Minicom: 08458 247905 (for hearing impaired)
Ask for: Mr M Funnell
Your ref:
Our ref: PAG/MF/SW/05/254
Date: 16 June 2005

Dear Sir

Notification of Grant of Permission to Develop Land

PROPOSAL: SW/05/254 - NEW CAR PARKING AREA IN FRONT OF EXISTING SCHOOL BUILDING. TUNSTALL C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, TUNSTALL, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 8DX

1. The above-mentioned proposal dated 15 February 2005 for the formal observations of the County Council as County Planning Authority, has now received consideration.
2. I have to inform you that the County Planning Authority under the Town and Country Planning Act on 14 June 2005 has **REFUSED PERMISSION** for development of the above proposal.

The grounds for such refusal are:

1. The proposal would harm the character of a Conservation Area and would not serve to ensure that the special character and appearance of the Conservation Area is preserved and enhanced, contrary to Policies ENV15 and ENV17 of the Kent Structure Plan 1996, Policies QL1 and QL7 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (Deposit) September 2003 and Policy E36 of the Swale Borough Local Plan 2000.
2. The proposal would be detrimental to the setting of a Listed Building and would not serve to preserve, protect or enhance its architectural and historic integrity and the character of its setting, contrary to Policies ENV15 and ENV19 of the Kent Structure Plan 1996, Policies QL1 and QL9 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (Deposit) September 2003 and Policy E39 of the Swale Borough Local Plan 2000.
3. The proposal would result in a decrease in safety on the highway network due to a lack of visibility at the access onto the public highway, contrary to Policies E1 and T1 of the Swale Borough Local Plan (Deposit) March 2004.
4. The proposal would be detrimental to existing trees and produce unacceptable landscape and visual impacts, contrary to Policies ENV2 and ENV7 of the Kent Structure Plan 1996, Policies E3 and E9 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (Deposit) September 2003 and Policy E18 of the Swale Borough Local Plan 2000.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure (England) Amendment) Order 2000

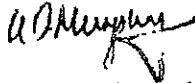
This application has been determined in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Acts, and in the context of the Government's current Planning Policy Guidance and the relevant Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions Circulars, together with the relevant Development Plan Policies, including the following:

Kent Structure Plan 1996 Policies S1, S2, S9, ENV2, ENV7, ENV15, ENV17, ENV19
Kent & Medway Structure Plan (Deposit) September 2003 Policies: SP1, QL1, QL7, QL9, QL13, E3, E8, E9
Swale Borough Local Plan 2000 Policies: C1, G1, IN13, E18, E36, E39, E48
Swale Borough Local Plan First Review (Deposit Draft) March 2004 Policies: C1, E1, T1, E10, E13, E14, E18

In addition please be advised of the following informative:

The School is to be advised that the current temporary car parking at the front of the school can no longer be tolerated and negotiations should be actively pursued to find alternative staff parking facilities.

Yours faithfully



Head of Planning Applications Group ⁵⁸

Mr J & Mrs T Mills
Tunstall
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME9 8DX

6th December 2011

For the Attention of:

The Chairman & Members of the Swale Joint Transportation Board
Swale House
East Street
Sittingbourne
Kent

Dear Members of the Joint Transportation Board

**Ref: Agenda Item 6 Report to JTB by Steve Darling KCC Highways Engineer
Tunstall C E (Aided) Primary School, Tunstall – Traffic & Parking Issues**

We wish to bring to your attention the inaccuracies in the above report, compiled at your request following the previous Highways engineer's submission to the JTB on 13th June 2011 as the original report was considered by yourselves, not to be detailed enough at the previous JTB meeting.

Firstly, Members requested at the meeting of the 13th June 2011 (as can be seen by the minutes to that meeting) that the views of County, Borough and Parish Councillors be considered with regard to the parking issues in Tunstall. No request was received by Tunstall Parish Council for comments on the matter for the report, and as such no report sent, only a letter requesting the problem be considered was sent as a matter of course.

The current Highways report you are considering for the JTB meeting on 12th December 2011 contains inaccuracies and untruths, which do not enable the scale of the problem to be adequately considered by Members. The inaccuracies in Mr Darling's report (which also includes PC Warren Jarvis's report) are listed below:

1. **Point 2.1** states that the main entrance to the School is the entrance from the Village Hall car park. The School keep this entrance locked all day, being opened only for 10 minutes in the morning (refer to attached School letters of 23rd March 2011 & 18th Oct 2011) and 20 minutes in the afternoon. How then can this rear entrance be considered the School's main entrance? Children use the front entrance for the Breakfast Club, if they are late, for being picked up during the day, when the School has a trip or for swimming lessons (refer to School's letter of 18th Oct 2011).
2. In relation to the above, the "**Signed Main School Entrance**" is on Tunstall Road at the front of the School and is open for children to enter the School from about 7.30 am as the School has a Breakfast Club. This front main entrance remains open until when the School closes after 5 pm. From 7.30 am, all other gates are locked until 8.45 am. The School directs parents to park and escort children into the Main School Office at the front of the School before 8.45 am as there is a danger of staff running

over the children as the staff drive their cars through the playground, across the School's front garden and entrance footpath.

3. **Point 2.2** states, "*a maximum amount of 30 pupils per class*" - there are 31 pupils in more than one class (e.g. Blue Class).
4. **Point 2.3** states, "*the school has 30 members of staff*" – why then are 32 members of staff consulted in the piece of paper that the School entitle "Travel Plan" under "Survey Results (Staff)"?
5. **Point 2.3** – in the past staff were allocated car parking spaces in the Village Hall car park, which meant they did not park on the School's front garden and spill out on to Tunstall Road. However, the School lost this parking allocation. Recently, in light of the traffic chaos, the Village Hall have since offered 6 parking spaces again for the teachers, but for some reason this was refused by the School. At least it would have been a starting point for further negotiation with the Village Hall and it would have helped the Community to alleviate some of the traffic chaos created by them – after all one of the School's objectives in their Travel Plan is, "*To promote good relationships with the community*"!
6. **Point 2.3** also states that on "occasion" there are also cars parked directly outside "the school entrance". There are cars parked outside the main school entrance in Tunstall Road every day (please refer to attached photos taken recently). Every day parents park outside to drop off children as directed by the School. The parents park and leave their cars dragging their children in and out of the other parked cars to take the children inside the school. On most days school staff park outside the school apart from when the space is needed (e.g. for school trips when coach parking is required). Mysteriously, on these days the staff are able to find somewhere else to park (or when the Police and Highways Officers appear in high visibility jackets to monitor the parking situation!).
7. **Point 3.6** states, "the majority of parents were observed using the car park and drop off facility" and "a couple of vehicles were parked directly outside the school". It is hardly surprising that everyone "behaved" as the Police Officer, PCSO and Highway's Officer arrived in a marked police car and a marked highway's van and stood prominently in high visibility jackets for all to see. Mysteriously the rear school gates opened early (before 8.45 am) and the main culprits of parking outside the school, parked in the hall car park until these Officers had gone after about an hour at 9 am.
8. **Point 3.8** - the photographs Mr Darling has submitted still shows cars parked in Tunstall Road outside the School's main entrance even though the Authorities were there. Mr Darling, as well as the PCSO Matthew Link, are regularly sent photographs by several villagers depicting the daily chaos outside the school, but have not included these. Please, therefore, find attached our recent photographs of the parking and traffic chaos outside Tunstall School's main entrance and we would like these presented to the JTB.
9. **Point 4.1** – 'zig-zag' lines are the obvious choice and there appears no argument to the contrary in the report. The cost of safety for Tunstall village has risen from the initial estimate of £1500 by independent KCC Officers. Mr Darling's estimate is now £3000, which has doubled in six months. However, we feel this is a small price for a child's injury, let alone life, and we have asked the Tunstall Parish Council to consider funding this, as Cllr. Willicombe has spent his money, even after offering to fund it.

10. **Point 4.4** states the majority of on-street parking is school staff who cannot park off the highway. As already mentioned, in point 5 above, the staff can park elsewhere when it suits the School and could easily walk from Park Drive, the Church car park or anywhere in town for that matter. One member of staff does already walk from Minterne Avenue, but Mr Darling in Point 2.3 seems to think that it is exceptional for some to manage to walk 0.5 km!
11. **In Point 4.4** a planning application for a car parking for 6 cars in the front garden of the School was not "**withdrawn**" it was "**refused**" by KCC (and objected to by Swale Borough Council) as it was contrary to planning legislation and highway safety. This intensive parking is occurring on a daily basis despite the refusal notice and highway safety issues (which was one of the refusal conditions). Please see attached the relevant refusal notice from KCC.
12. **Point 4.5** - if the Tunstall Parish Council agrees to fund this project, this item will not be valid. The regular reminders are sent out only when a neighbour, The Parish Council, Street Wardens or the Police complains.
13. Also in **Point 4.5**, the Tunstall Parish Council instigated and contributed to the improvements of the footpaths to make it safer for the children and to enable a walking bus to be feasible. However, yet again the School has not set this up even though encouraging children to walk to school, reducing car journeys and promoting greater safety for pedestrians are objectives in their own Travel Plan. Frankly, nothing has been done – the parking is getting worse and some of the worst offenders are the school staff (e.g. meal-time staff are meant to park in the Church car park according to the School's Travel Plan – but regularly park outside the School and in Hearts Delight and have been the subject to parking enforcement notices).
14. With regards to PC Warren Jarvis's report that states, "there is a lay-by opposite the school that residents use to park in". Unfortunately, somebody has misinformed PC Jarvis because the residents will confirm that it is the school staff that monopolise this lay-by on a daily basis. We rarely have visitors during school hours as there is no parking for us, and if we do, this is mostly arranged outside school hours (e.g. The residents of 1-6 School View are not on mains drainage and we arrange for our septic tank to be emptied very early in the morning, starting at 7am, otherwise this would be impossible during the day because of the school parking).

In light of the above, we request that the JTB do not accept the recommendation, "to do nothing", but pass the matter for public consultation where an open and honest decision can be made.

Another near miss happened on Thursday afternoon of last week involving a child and a screech of brakes. However, because the child was not hit and injured or killed, this will go unreported. An accident will happen, please have the governance of good sense and do the "safe" thing.

Yours faithfully

Mr J & Mrs T Mills

Swale JTB
Tabbed Papers

Item No. 6





