

SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD 10th SEPTEMBER 2012

Subject: **Tunstall school Parking Consultation**

Director/Head of Service: Director of Kent County Council, Highways and Transportation

Decision Issues: These matters are within the authority of the Kent County Council

Decision: For Decision

CCC Ward/KCC Division: **Swale Central**

Summary: A consultation has been carried out within the Tunstall parish on the parking issue outside Tunstall CE Primary School. This report outlines the results and conclusions of the consultation.

Classification: THIS REPORT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Background

A previous Joint Transportation Board resolution called for a parking consultation to be carried out to address a historic parking issue outside of Tunstall CE Primary School. A separate application is expected from the school for a staff car park at another location in the village.

The consultation was carried out by Mike Whiting out of his 2012/2013 Member Highway Fund Budget.

Discussion and financial implications

The view of residents was sought on whether a parking issue existed and on the likely support for the following scheme options:

1. "School Keep Clear" markings

This would be an enforceable restriction with yellow zig-zag lines for a maximum of 43.56m in length outside of the school entrance and would indicate an area that should be kept clear of stationary vehicles during the times stated on the accompanying sign. At this location the restriction would apply between 8.30-9.30am and 2.30-5.00pm on Monday to Friday. Vehicles may not STOP on the restriction during these times but there is no restriction outside the times.

2. Double yellow lines

This would be an enforceable restriction along the length of route highlighted above indicating an area that vehicles are not allowed to park at any time of day. It does allow a driver to stop to drop off/collect passengers, or to load/unload a vehicle.

3. Both options 1 and 2 used together.

4. Single yellow lines

This would be an enforceable restriction along the length of route highlighted in Figure 1 indicating that parking at the roadside is prohibited at the times specified on the accompanying sign. In this location the restriction would apply from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. It does allow a driver to stop to drop off/collect passengers, or to load/unload a vehicle.

5. Both options 1 and 4 used together.

6. No parking restriction

Only those responses sent from postcodes within the parish have been assessed as part of this consultation.

Conclusion

Of the 89 responses received from residents of the parish, 74 (83%) said Yes there was a parking problem at the school.

The support for the scheme options was split between option 3 (26 votes, 35%) and option 5 (23 votes, 31%).

A number of comments were received from the respondents, the most common comments were:

- Parked vehicles cause congestion and concerns were raised over the road safety issues of through traffic negotiating these (including agricultural vehicles, buses, lorries and pedestrians) (25 comments received)
- Gates to the village hall car park are closed during the day; drivers should be allowed to use this car park all day. (12 comments received)
- Issues are caused by staff parking outside of the school all day (5 comments received)
- Parents and staff should use alternative car parks (hall / church) and walk the children to school.(5 comments received)

A full list of comments is contained within the consultation report attached.

Recommendation

Option 3 should be installed (School Keep Clear markings and double yellow lines) so that this issue can be addressed; this will support any future parking provision which may be provided for staff.

Contact Officers

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Tunstall School Parking Consultation

Review of Responses

July 2012



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1. Background

Kent County Council was been made aware of a potential parking problem outside Tunstall CE Primary School on Tunstall Road. A Joint Transportation Board resolution called for this consultation, which was carried out in parallel to an expected application by the school for a staff car park elsewhere in the village. The consultations aim was to fully understand the views of the local residents and to establish whether there is an issue and, if so, what action might be taken.

The options proposed to resolve this were;

1. "School Keep Clear" markings

This would be an enforceable restriction with yellow zig-zag lines for a maximum of 43.56m in length outside of the school entrance and would indicate an area that should be kept clear of stationary vehicles during the times stated on the accompanying sign. At this location the restriction would apply between 8.30-9.30am and 2.30-5.00pm on Monday to Friday. Vehicles may not STOP on the restriction during these times but there is no restriction outside the times.

2. Double yellow lines

This would be an enforceable restriction along the length of route highlighted above indicating an area that vehicles are not allowed to park at any time of day. It does allow a driver to stop to drop off/collect passengers, or to load/unload a vehicle.

3. Both options 1 and 2 used together.

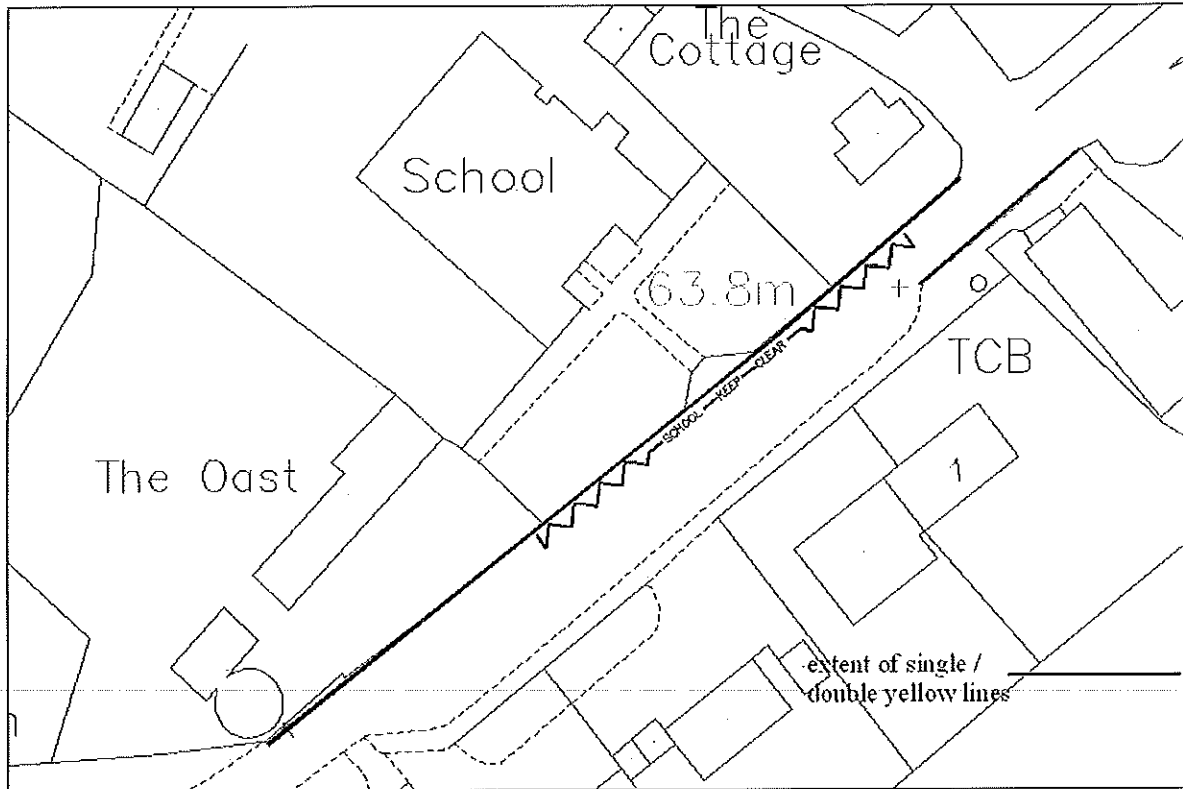
4. Single yellow lines

This would be an enforceable restriction along the length of route highlighted in Figure 1 indicating that parking at the roadside is prohibited at the times specified on the accompanying sign. In this location the restriction would apply from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. It does allow a driver to stop to drop off/collect passengers, or to load/unload a vehicle.

5. Both options 1 and 4 used together.

6. No parking restriction

Figure 1: Proposed Options





2. Consultation Process

The Consultation process started on 29th June 2012 and closed on 20th July 2012, a total of 3 weeks. Consultation notices were delivered to all homes and businesses within Tunstall Parish (approximately 400). Notices were also sent to the areas Borough Councillors, the Parish Council, Swale Borough Council and a representative at Kent Police Roads Policing department.

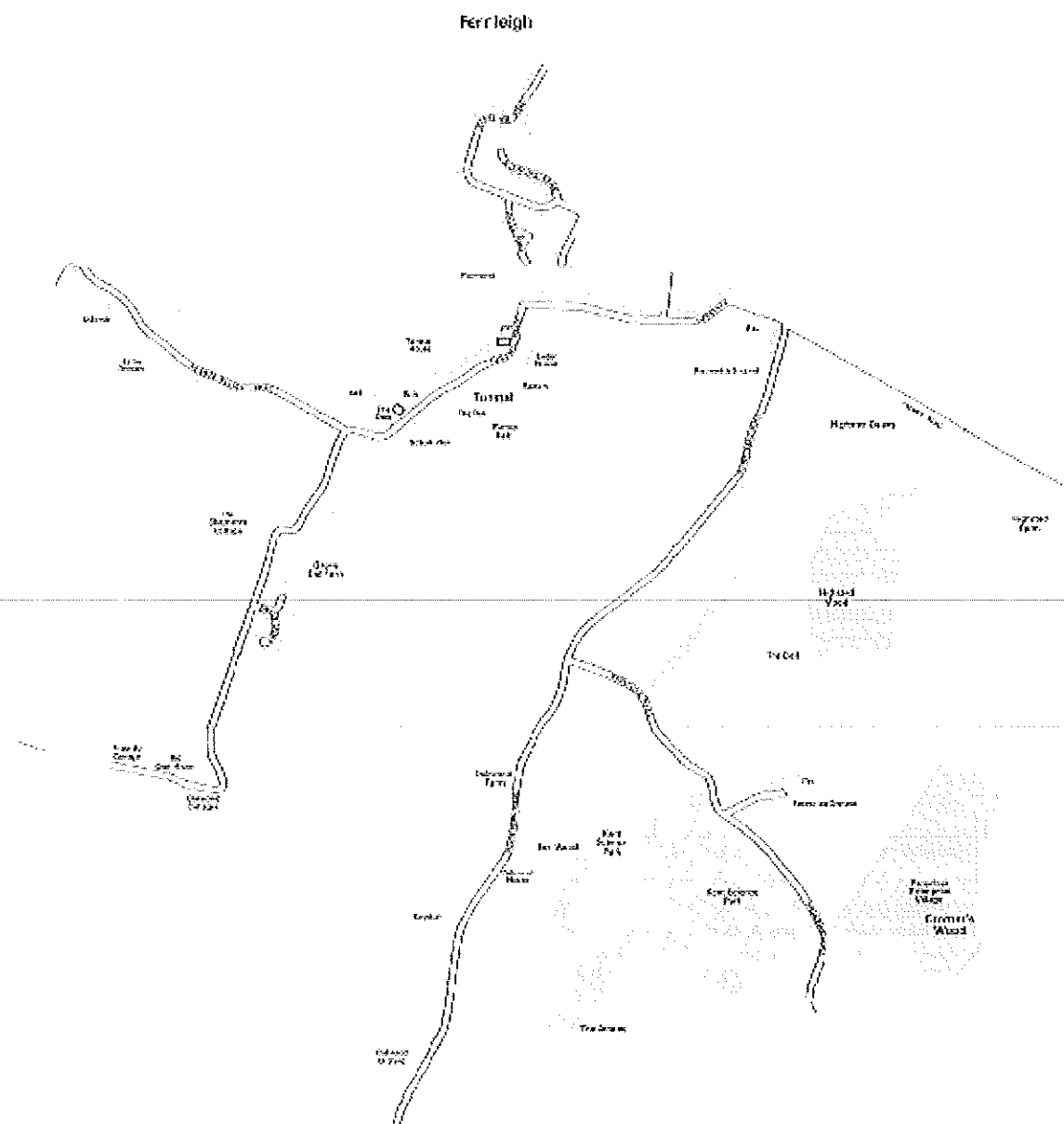
The ballot asked whether the responder thought that parking was an issue outside of Tunstall Primary School and, if so, which of the above options (if any) they thought was the most appropriate solution. The ballot also asked for any comments pertaining to this.

The consultation process closed on the 20th July 2012 and all the responses received on or before this date have been analysed below. Using the postal information of each responder, the data was sorted into those who lived within the parish and those who lived outside of the parish. All responses to the consultation have been reviewed and will be retained as additional information.

Each response sheet has been taken as one vote.

Comments received from Tunstall parishioners only have been grouped and summarised below.

Figure 2: The Tunstall parish border is shown in the below map;





3. Review of responses

89 responses were received by people living within Tunstall (approximately 22% of the number of residences). The tables below summarise the votes.

Do you consider parking outside Tunstall School to be a problem?	Tunstall Parish
Yes	74
No	15

If <u>Yes</u> , which of the following would you support?	Tunstall Parish
1. School Keep Clear Markings	6
2. Double Yellow Lines	10
3. School Keep Clear Markings + Double Yellow Lines	26
4. Single Yellow Lines	7
5. School Keep Clear Markings + Single Yellow Lines	23
6. No Parking Restrictions	0

NB. 2 Tunstall respondents commented that an "Other" solution would be preferred; One suggested "No stopping for any reason" signs, and the other suggested that parking be found elsewhere.

Overall, 83% of responders from the Tunstall Parish considered that parking was a problem outside of Tunstall Primary School.

The opinion on which solution would be best for the site was split between option 3 (26 votes – 35%) and option 5 (23 votes – 31%).

Comments from Tunstall parishioners which arose from the consultation process

The below summarises the comments received from those who live within the Tunstall parish. The comments have been grouped into general topics, and in brackets is the number of responses.

Staff and parent parking

- Issues are caused by staff parking outside of the school all day (5)
- School parents are inconsiderate, parking in front of driveways (1)
- This is a village school but parents are not local, so have to drive to drop off children (1)
- If a child is sick and there are restrictions placed outside of the school, parents would have to park further away from the school in order to collect the child (2)
- Parents always appear to park respectfully (1)

Village Hall

- Gates to the village hall car park are closed during the day; drivers should be allowed to use this car park all day (12)
- The car park is open during school drop off/pick up time (1)



Alternative Parking

- A planning application has been submitted by a local landowner to build a car park specifically for school use. If this goes ahead, there will be no need for any parking restrictions outside the school, as vehicles would no longer park there (2)
- If parking is restricted outside the school, it will just push the problem elsewhere in the village (1)
- There is land in front of the school which is currently not used, could this be turned into a drop off point (1)
- Parents and staff should use alternative car parks (hall/church) and walk the children to the school (5)

Road Safety

- Parked vehicles cause congestion and concerns were raised over the road safety issues of through traffic negotiating these (including agricultural vehicles, buses, lorries and pedestrians) (25)
- Parked vehicles slow down through traffic, which is a positive effect (2)
- Public footpaths in the area are not maintained, and there is not a direct footpath to the school – discouraging walking therefore restricting parking outside would increase risk (3)
- Consider a walking bus (1)

Enforcement

- These solutions will only work if enforced by police or community support officer (2)
- Zigzags will help to highlight the area as a school and encourage motorists to slow down (1)
- School keep clears should start at the latest 8am as many children arrive off before 8.30 (1)
- School keep clears should cover the whole school day (2)
- Yellow lines should continue behind the keep clear markings (2)

The Village

- Tunstall is a Conservation Area (2)

Site visit/further consultation

- Suggest that, if the lining has to go ahead, a site visit be carried out with the village to discuss (1)
- Public meeting to discuss the issue (1)

Other

- Schools such as Iwade, Bobbing, Leeds and Minterne have much worse parking issues (2)
- Speed restriction of 20mph outside school (2)



4. Conclusions drawn from Consultation Process

The majority of Tunstall Parish considered parking to be a problem outside of the primary school. The views on how to overcome the problem were varied, with the majority of votes selecting option 3 - School Keep Clear Markings + Double Yellow Lines - and option 5 - School Keep Clear Markings + Single Yellow Lines.

The majority of comments received were generally focused on the congestion caused by parked vehicles in this area and the potential road safety issues that they cause.

Leaving the village car park open all day was also raised, it is currently only open during school opening and closing times for parents to use. It was commented that if the car park was open all day, staff would be able to use the car park.

Two parishioners commented that there is a planning application for a car park to be built on private land for school use. If this were to go ahead, the parking outside of the school may no longer be a problem.

This review will be taken to Swale's Joint Transportation Board for discussion and further action if necessary.



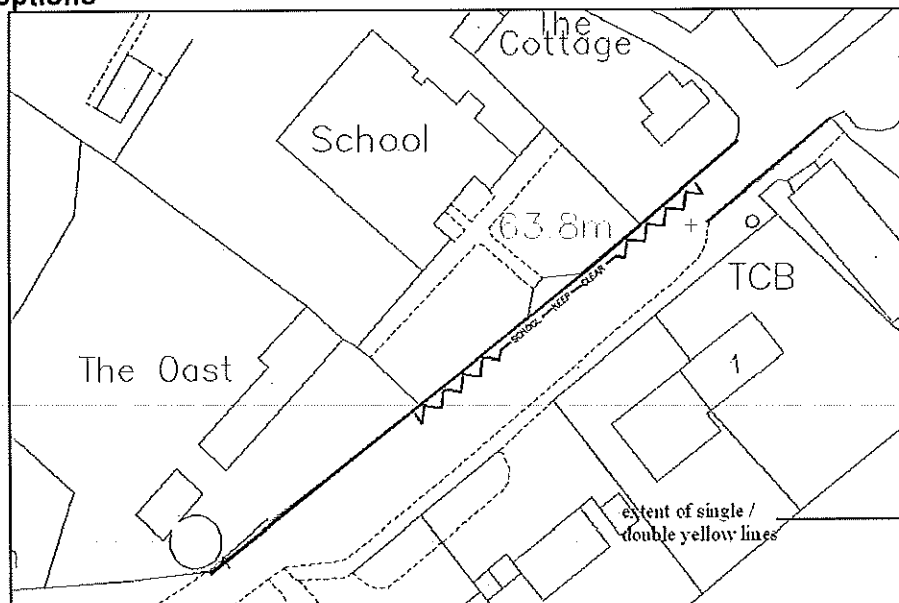
Appendix 1 – The Consultation Notice

Tunstall School Parking Consultation



Kent County Council has been made aware of a potential parking problem outside Tunstall CE Primary School on Tunstall Road. KCC would like to consult parishioners on this perceived problem so that they can fully understand the views of the local residents and to establish whether there is an issue and, if so, what action might be taken.

The options



If parking is perceived to be a problem at this location, there are five solutions which are available;

1. "School Keep Clear" markings

This would be an enforceable restriction with yellow zig-zag lines for a maximum of 43.56m in length outside of the school entrance and would indicate an area that should be kept clear of stationary vehicles during the times stated on the accompanying sign. At this location the restriction would apply between 8.30-9.30am and 2.30-5.00pm on Monday to Friday. Vehicles may not STOP on the restriction during these times but there is no restriction outside the times.

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5. Both options 1 and 4 used together.



The consultation process

If you would like to register your opinion with us, please fill out the questionnaire below and post or email back to us.

A review will then be carried out summarising the parishioners' responses and this feedback will be taken to Swale's Joint Transportation Board for discussion and further action if necessary.

Please note that direct, individual responses will not be sent out in response to each questionnaire. At the end of the consultation a report on feedback will be compiled and this will be available on request.

Consultation Questionnaire

Please let us know your thoughts on the parking outside Tunstall CE Primary School by filling in the form and either posting it back to us or using the email address below.

Do you consider parking outside Tunstall School to be a problem?

Yes
 No

Any comments

.....
.....
.....
.....

If Yes, which of the following would you support?

1	<input type="checkbox"/>	School Keep Clear Markings
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Double Yellow Lines
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	School Keep Clear Markings + Double Yellow Lines
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Yellow Lines
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	School Keep Clear Markings + Single Yellow Lines
6	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Parking Restrictions

Name:.....

Address:

Returns of Consultation Questionnaire

Please return this form by one of the following methods

- By Post
Send to Katie Clarke, KCC Highways, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB
- By Email
Email your responses to MHF@kent.gov.uk
Please put "Tunstall Parking Consultation" in the subject box

The deadline for responses is Friday 20th July 2012

Our project reference: B2502600 Tunstall Parking Consultation