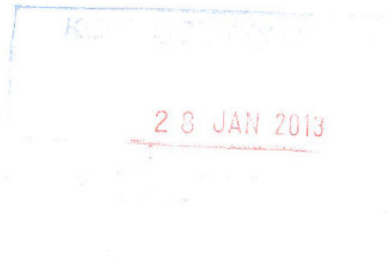


TUNSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. L. Fisher
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C/o. 53 Springvale
Iwade, Sittingbourne,
Kent, ME10 9ET



17th January, 2012

John Burr,
Director of Kent Highways,
Kent County Council,
County Hall,
Maidstone,
Kent, ME14 1XQ.

Dear Mr. Burr,

Yellow Lines outside Tunstall CofE School, Tunstall, Kent.

Tunstall Parish Council understands that Swale's Joint Transportation Board Members have requested that the above yellow lines be put on hold, pending the outcome of a current planning application for 10 car parking spaces on land adjacent to Tunstall School. Tunstall Councillors strongly believe that these two matters should be treated as separate issues.

Our purpose in writing to you is to ask you, under your delegated powers, to consider installing these yellow lines on health and safety grounds without any delay. Tunstall Parish Councillors are deeply concerned that the safety of pupils, parents and staff is being put at risk due to Tunstall Road frequently being used as a 'rat run' and the number of cars parked in this particular area, on both sides of the road, at times makes it a single lane with poor visibility for pedestrians.

We do hope you will consider our request.

Yours sincerely,

LYNDA FISHER
Clerk

Dear Lynda,

I refer to your Councils letter dated 17th January 2013 requesting John Burr make a decision, using his delegated authority, to install the proposed parking restrictions outside Tunstall Primary School without delay.

At the meeting of the Swale JTB held on the 12th December 2011 (minutes amended and approved at the 12th March JTB) it was agreed for the County Council

to carry out a consultation with local residents to look at options for parking restrictions outside the school so that options were available to take forward when a decision had been made by the school on any additional land that was available for parking. This original recommendation that the options should not be taken forward until a decision has been made on the school providing additional off street parking has been recently reaffirmed by the Joint Transportation at their meeting dated 10th December 2012.

At the time the consultation results were clearly intended for use only once a decision had been made on any potential provision of off street parking and therefore, in my opinion it is only correct that any subsequent decision informed by the results of the original consultation is deferred until a decision has been made on the off street parking. This position is supported by your local County Councillor, Mike Whiting and Alan Willicombe. Mr Whiting generously promoted this consultation with funds from his Member Highway Fund.

The new County Council's procedures for making decisions on Traffic Regulation Orders when five or fewer objections has been received states that the local County Councillor has to be in full support to proceed before a delegated decision is made. As the County Councillor supports waiting until a decision on the off street parking has been made no decision can be made by the Director under delegated authority. Both the County Councillor and /or the Director can also refer the matter back to the Joint Transportation Board if they feel this is appropriate. I can confirm that the decision on the off street parking planning application will be taken separately from the waiting restrictions and will have to follow the County Councils formal procedures.

The County Council do not have any records of any personal injury crashes relating to the school or parking since our records began in 1994. Therefore I do not see any grounds that deferring the decision on the lining for a little while longer to await the decision on the off street parking planning application will have any significant detrimental effect to road safety.

Kind regards,

Andy Corcoran

Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund Manager

Dear Andy,

Thank you for responding to the Parish Council's letter concerning this matter and in particular for clarifying the situation, as per your second paragraph. As you might

appreciate, being fairly new to this Parish Council there is some information of which I am unaware of.

However, I am aware that County Cllr. Whiting generously funded the consultation and has been working hard to try and help both the residents and the School with this problem.

I do have two questions:

Might I ask which County Councillor supports waiting for a decision on the off-street parking?

Once the decision has been made, and if the lines are to go ahead, how quickly will this happen?

I note the comments in your last paragraph regarding the records for this Highway since 1994, and sincerely hope that this does not change during this deferment period.

Kind regards

Lynda

Clerk

Tunstall Parish Council

Dear Lynda,

In response to your queries.

My understanding is that both County Members do and the main timing issue would be how quickly we can get the contractor out to paint the lines. The maximum turn around should be 8 weeks from placing the order but it may be only a couple of weeks if a gang is readily available.

Obviously the safety of the children is everybody's paramount concern however, it should be noted that as there have been no recorded personal injury crashes, the removal of the parking, may statistically make the crash record worse in the future.

Kind regards,

Andy Corcoran

Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund Manager