

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Date: 25th June 2009
[REDACTED]

D.E Bond
Director of Law and Democracy
Municipal Buildings
Church Road
Stockton On Tees
TS18 1LD

Ref: Kirknewton Close / Road Traffic Regulation Order and Ketton Road Parking Facilities around Harrow Gate Primary School

Dear Sir,

I write to object to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order on behalf of the parents of Harrowgate Primary School.

There is already a lack of parking facilities around Kirknewton Close and Ketton Road allowing insufficient access to Harrow Gate primary school.

I can only assume that this further proposed traffic regulation order is designed to generate revenue for the council by preventing even further parents from parking in the area.

Around April 2009 changes were made to the parking arrangements that surround the whole school and we believe that not enough consideration has been given to the schools requirements to allow parents and carers to safely drop off and collect children from the nursery schools.

We agree that parking restrictions had to be put into place to allow the free flow of traffic and emergency vehicles through the routes around the school and North Tees hospital.

The school has over 400 children that need to be delivered and collected from school safely. This takes less than 30 minutes for 4 periods during the day. Only 9 car parking spaces have been generated to allow for this. The remainder of spaces are adjacent to the hospital on the opposite side of the school.

Every available parking space around the school has been either placed in a single yellow line zone or a residents parking only zone to the point where the only spaces available are in front of peoples garages or immediately in front of the school gates.

Parking wardens are turning up at the school only during school drop off and pick up times to strictly enforce the parking and in effect bullying parents who must collect and drop off children.

The fact is that 90% of the parking spaces on Ketton Road / Kirknewton Close are underutilised and in fact empty throughout the whole day.

As there are only approx 7 residents along Ketton Road who use the car parking spaces we can only assume that the severe parking restrictions have been put into place as simply a method of generating revenue both for parking permits and fining parents who have to use Ketton Road / Kirknewton Close to access the school.

As you can see from the images below taken during different times of the day on and around Ketton Road at there would be no parking or access issues even if parents were allowed a waiting time to safely drop off and collect the children.



Taken at 18:37



Taken at 09:40



Taken at 18:40 – Kirknewton Close



Taken at 18:40 – Ketton Road / Kirknewton Close



Taken at 09:40



Taken at 18:41 – Kirknewton Close



Taken at 08:26 – Ketton Road

By adding the parking restrictions the council has made the roads around the school a dangerous place for the children in that:

- Not enough spaces or sensible waiting time has been allowed on Ketton Road and not enough consultation has taken place between the council and the requirements of the school.
- Parents are being forced to park on the extremely busy Durham Road where there are no parking restrictions.
- Parents are having to play 'cat and mouse' with parking attendants on empty roads.
- There have been cases where parents have had to leave the children to run back to cars and move them on threats of receiving fines from traffic wardens and it will not be long before there is an accident related to the parking situation.
- Traffic wardens are actively targeting and fining parents at the times when school and nursery are opening and closing.

The way forward:

In the short term we would hope that the council will review the heavy handed tactics being employed by traffic wardens around the school specifically targeting parents at the times when children have to be dropped off and collected from school. In the long term we would hope the council will review the parking restrictions surrounding the Ketton Road area.

We would suggest the following changes be made to the parking system around Ketton Road which would not have any detrimental effect on residents or traffic flow:

- Turn an extra 15 of the parking spaces into general designated parking bays with 1 hour waiting times. This extra time would allow for parents that have to attend school meetings and collect and drop off children safely.

This letter is the starting point of correspondence and objection to the latest traffic regulation order and we are prepared to get the media and local councillors involved in the short term should the council not look sensibly at the parking arrangements and take into consideration the safety of the parents and children at harrow gate primary school.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards



