

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

23 JANUARY 2020

**REPORT OF CRIME
AND DISORDER
SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

**Lead Cabinet Member – Access, Communities & Community Safety – Cllr Steve Nelson
Lead Cabinet Member – Environment & Transport – Cllr Mike Smith**

**COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION: OBSTRUCTIVE AND ILLEGAL PARKING AROUND
WHITEHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

SUMMARY

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee's investigation of the Councillor Call for Action in relation to Obstructive and Illegal Parking around Whitehouse Primary School.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)

This topic was an addition to the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019-2020 following the submission of a Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) in July 2019. The subsequent investigation is now complete and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Crime and Disorder Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommend that:

- 1) The commitment of Whitehouse Primary School's Chair of Governors to send termly correspondence to parents / carers regarding parking issues / updates is endorsed.
- 2) Whitehouse Primary School distribute a 'walkzone' map (e.g. Appendix 1) with the Chair of Governors' termly communication to parents / carers regarding parking.
- 3) Whitehouse Primary School ensure they maximise access to the school car park for all staff and official school visitors so they do not need to park in neighbouring roads (albeit legally).
- 4) Whitehouse Primary School maximise access to the school car park for parents / carers collecting pupils from after-school activities.
- 5) The Council consider supporting the school's travel plan meetings as a pilot to establish a format to potentially handover to the SBC Junior Road Safety Officer in the school to deliver as part of their duties, and for any good practice identified via this pilot to be circulated to other schools across the Borough.

- 6) Regarding the Barlborough Avenue side, the Council consider introducing a 20mph speed limit near to the Whitehouse Primary School.
- 7) Regarding the Barlborough Avenue side, respective Ward Councillors consider using part of their CPB funding allocation towards the installation of bollards to deter pavement / grass verge parking.
- 8) Regarding the Dunelm Road side, the Council work with Whitehouse Primary School to better facilitate access to the school car park for those transporting pupils with SEN, as well as explore the possibility of using the green 'island' within the current ring road zone to create a small number of disabled parking bays.
- 9) The Council conduct further research with the Department for Transport around the 'School Streets' concept.
- 10) The actions undertaken following the previous Scrutiny Review of School Parking continue to be reinforced with all schools across the Borough, and the production of a safe parking video using local schools is endorsed.

DETAIL

1. A Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) was submitted by Cllr Julia Cherrett and Cllr David Minchella in July 2019 regarding Obstructive and Illegal Parking around Whitehouse Primary School. This request was considered by the Executive Scrutiny Committee on the 23rd July 2019, where it was resolved that the CCfA be approved and referred to the Crime and Disorder Select Committee for further detailed exploration of the issues raised at its meeting in October 2019.
2. The CCfA submission highlighted long-standing problems associated with parking in the vicinity of Whitehouse Primary School, and detailed concerns relating to both the Dunelm Road (main entrance) and Barlborough Avenue sides of the school. Whilst the impact of obstructive and illegal parking on the nearby residents was a central theme, the submission also emphasised the dangers to children who are required to navigate their way between parked cars and be mindful of vehicles manoeuvring around cluttered residential areas.
3. A history of attempts (since 2004-2005) to resolve this issue was included. It was also noted that a CCfA regarding this same subject was submitted in 2015, but was not approved as the stated problems would be investigated as part of a Borough-wide scrutiny review of school parking rather than in isolation.
4. National guidance on CCfAs state that it is key to ascertain desired outcomes, and Cllrs Cherrett and Minchella outlined their wish for:
 - more action to be taken against illegal parking, in particular more positive enforcement action with penalty notices issued
 - the consideration of measures such as
 - possible walk-to-school routes (see Appendix 2 for walking times)
 - a Resident's Parking Zone
 - a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which can be used to ban or regulate any activity in public spaces which the Local Authority believes has a 'detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality' (Havering Council have introduced school parking PSPOs and Gateshead Council are in the process of implementing a pilot PSPO project)
 - no dispersal of the problem to neighbouring roads, which are already experiencing parking issues.

5. The Committee took evidence from the Councillors who submitted the CCfA, representatives of the affected residents, Whitehouse Primary School and Local Authority Officers.
6. Two site visits were undertaken prior to the Committee meeting in October 2019 to enable Members to gain an understanding of the geographical nature of the school and surrounding area. During these visits, a number of parents / carers expressed their views on parking issues affecting both the Dunelm Road and Barlborough Avenue sides of the school.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

7. Concerns around problem parking in the vicinity of schools are widespread, not just at Whitehouse Primary School, but across the Borough and indeed at a national level. Previous scrutiny work has attempted to address this issue, and the recommendations from this investigation provide further means of promoting more responsible parking around the school itself, whilst recognising the limitations around the Council's enforcement capacity.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

8. The safety and wellbeing of all children across the Borough is a fundamental element of the Council's corporate parent role, and this investigation supports that responsibility.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. Administrative costs associated with supporting the school travel plan meetings (as a pilot). Potential cost implications for additional parking measures / restrictions on both sides of the school.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no legal implications identified at this stage.

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. The review is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

12. The CCfA concerned Whitehouse Primary School which is sited within Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree Ward. The relevant Ward Councillors were involved in the evidence-gathering.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

13. None.

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