

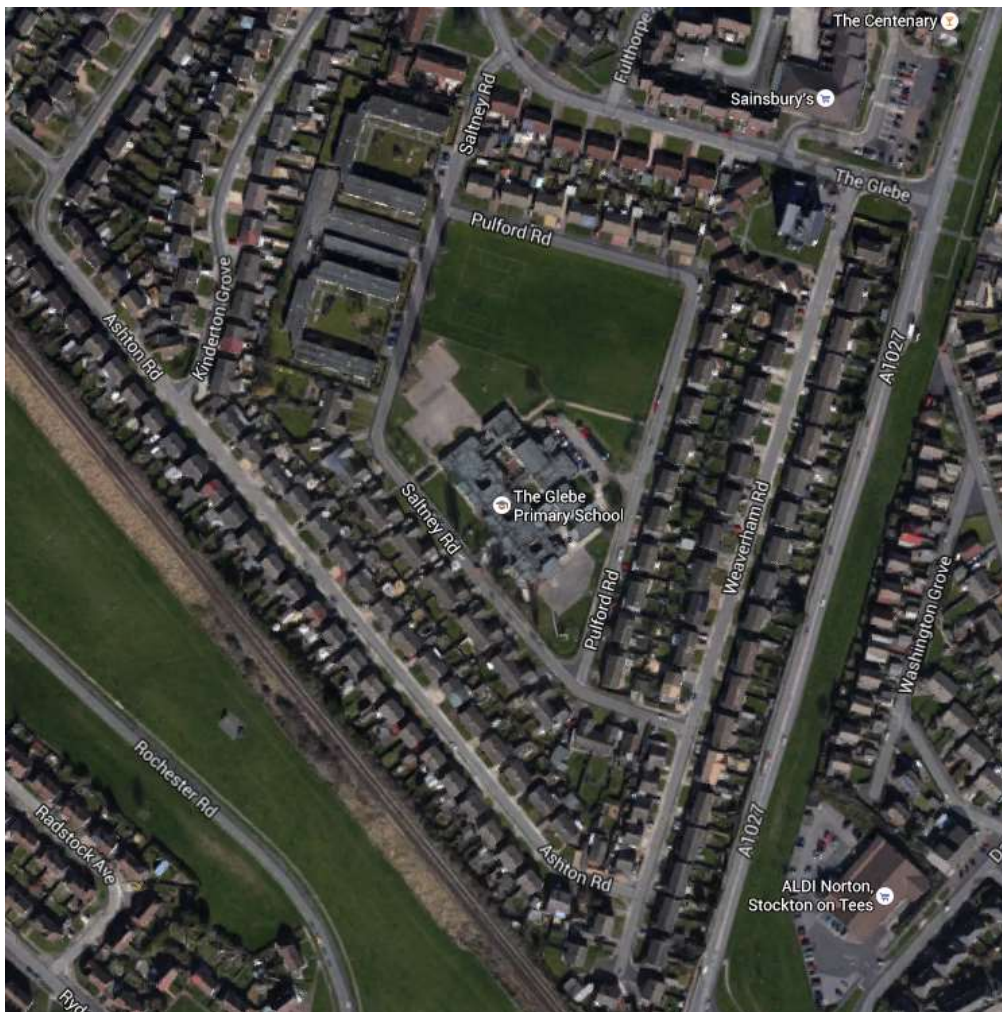
**REPORT TO CRIME  
AND DISORDER  
SELECT COMMITTEE**

**17 DECEMBER 2015**

**SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SCHOOL PARKING**

1. At its meeting on 19 November the Committee agreed to undertake small group site visits to three schools to observe the problems under review on a morning and afternoon both with and without Enforcement Officers on duty to determine change behaviour.
2. Committee Members were accompanied by a Senior Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer or the Traffic and Network Safety Manager to observe what typically happens at The Glebe, Whitehouse, and Ingleby Mill Primary Schools. Members also met the Head Teacher at The Glebe and Ingleby Mill Primary Schools as well as some parents and residents at each of the school locations.

**The Glebe Primary School**



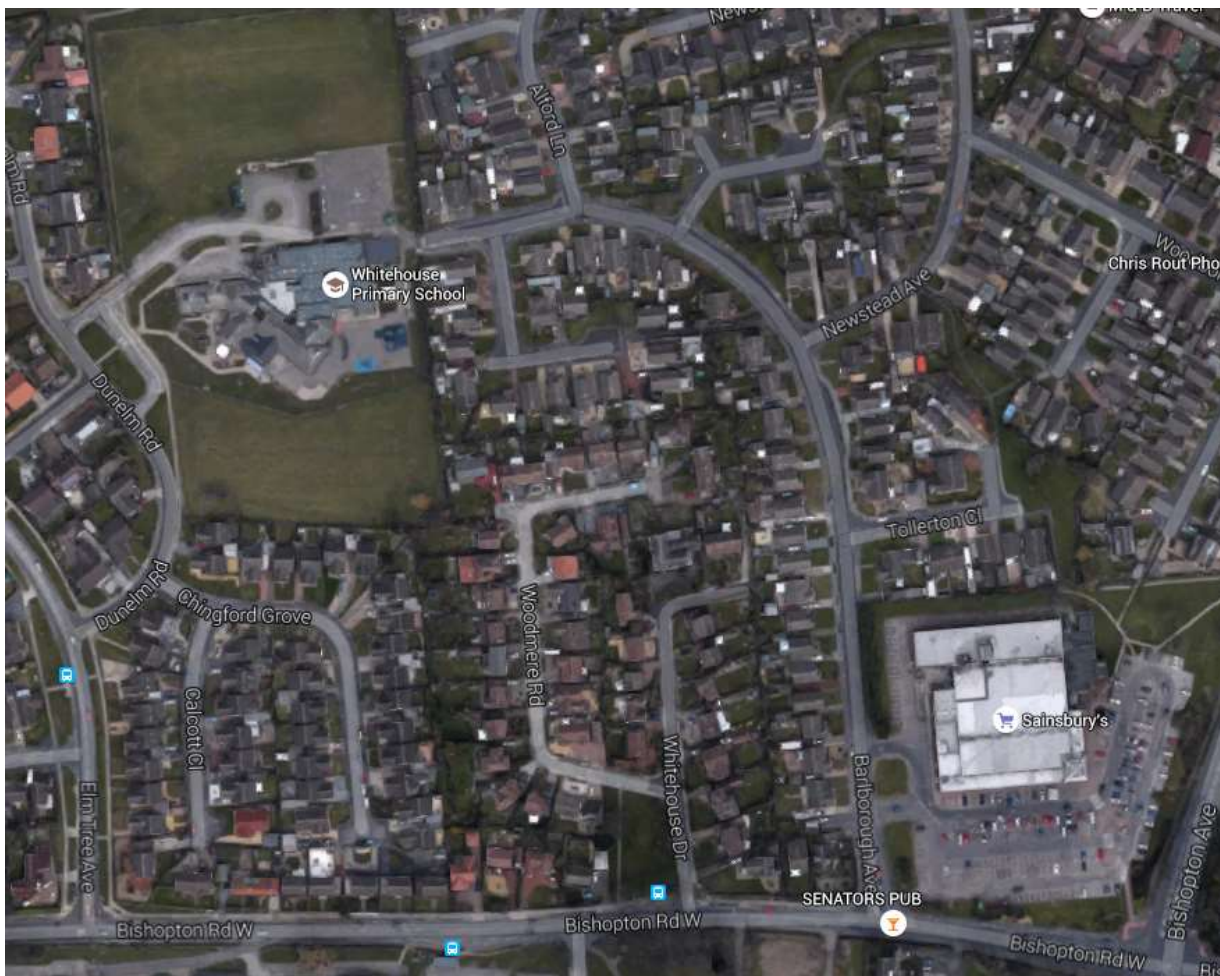
3. Enforcement Officers were on duty on Friday, 4 December a.m. and patrolled the entrance to the nursery where zig-zag lines are located. Although this should not allow any stopping a number of parents did even though they were told to move on. Parents also drove into the staff car park in order to allow their child/ren to disembark from their car.



4. Parents also parked on the corner of Saltney Road and Pulford Road where white lines are painted. This forced cars wanting to approach the nursery entrance on Pulford Road on to the opposite side of the road to face oncoming traffic.
5. Cars were also parked on pavements in front of residents' houses and formed a chicane to manoeuvre around. Afterwards an elderly resident approached Members to tell of the problems she encounters.
6. A reason for some of the delay in cars leaving is due to the need for parents to escort pupils under the age of eight into the school premises and unless there is a teacher/responsible adult the child can not be left unsupervised. Parents also enjoyed an amount of social time with other parents which also delayed leaving the site.
7. Members were informed that an unofficial one-way system operates but this failed on the afternoon when Members were present as seen in the photograph above. With parked cars creating a chicane the refusal of the blue van that can be seen in the photo blocked the cars to the corner of Saltney Road. Until the car alongside the blue van moved a traffic jam occurred.
8. The Head Teacher remarked that what had been witnessed was not unusual and has attempted to reason with the parents causing the traffic problems.

### **Whitehouse Primary School**

9. Members parked at the Sainsbury's car park and walked the short distance to the school entrance on Barlborough Avenue on Monday, 7 December to observe how parents behaved when delivering their children when no Enforcement Officers were present.
10. Members observed a lot of children walking to school with only a limited number of cars parked either fully on the road or partially on the pavement in front of the bungalows. This narrowed the access for residents arriving or leaving by car from their premises. One car had to cross into oncoming traffic to avoid the car which limited but didn't fully block the driveway. Cars were also parked close to the corners with Alford Lane creating a single car access.
11. Towards the end of the site visit Members observed a parent/responsible adult arrive and park further away from the entrance than others although he had two children needing walking frames to assist their mobility. In addition workmen employed at the bungalow nearest the school entrance parked their van and trailer fully on the pavement.



12. Members are to observe the issue with Enforcement Officers on Monday, 14 December and an update will be provided at the meeting.

### **Ingleby Mill Primary School**

13. Members observed the school on Wednesday, 9 December a.m. when Enforcement Officers were present. The roundabout nearest the school is fully marked and signed so that no stopping is allowed. Even with Enforcement Officer this was not fully adhered to although the incidences were noticeably reduced. One could see the intent of the drivers that came around the roundabout with the majority driving back out toward the drop-off zone that exists between the two roundabouts that can be seen in the photograph below.
14. A public car park can also be seen which is intended for parents to use whilst dropping off or picking up children. Members were informed by the Head Teacher, a governor and a number of parents that this does not meet the requirements for the number of cars coming to and from the school. A number of parents argued for a larger car park but as this would only tend to be used for short periods on a morning and afternoon so it may only offer a limited solution.
15. Members had parked on Sober Hall Avenue and walked down a pedestrian/cycle path which runs to The Old Mill Bed and Breakfast establishment that can be seen in the photograph and offers the opportunity of a safe walk to school except for the youngest pupils unless they were accompanied by parents.



16. It was necessary to rearrange the visit without visible Enforcement Officers present so an update will be provided when this has taken place.

### **School Census**

17. At Appendix 1 is details of the school rolls as quantified in the School Census that Stockton Council's Business Support and Information Manager, Children, Education and Social Care has provided following a request by the Scrutiny Officer. Its aim is to show the number of pupils that currently attend all forms of schools in the borough and the distance they travel to and from school.

### **Statutory Guidance**

18. Statutory guidance for local authorities for home to school travel and transport was published by the Department for Education in July 2014. (See Appendix 2)

19. It states the duty on local authorities to make such travel arrangements as they consider necessary to facilitate attendance at school for eligible children. For this it specifies statutory walking distances eligibility:

- provide free transport for all pupils of compulsory school age (5-16) if their nearest suitable school is:
- beyond 2 miles (if below the age of 8); or

- beyond 3 miles (if aged between 8 and 16)
20. In an attempt to identify the catchment of pupils that possibly live within 1 mile of the three schools chosen as site visits for this review maps showing a radius of 1 mile are shown at Appendix 3.
  21. Darlington Borough Council feature as a case study in the statutory guidance document (see page 25) and additional information was requested from the named officer.
  22. The Council has been working with schools in Darlington on school travel issues since 2004 and by 2010 all schools had a school travel plan which was a government target. They run campaigns throughout the year to encourage parents and pupils to travel sustainably and details of this can be found on the website <http://www.dothelocalmotion.co.uk/schools/getting-to-school/>. Schools are also encouraged to also use the Modeshift STARS website which is a national accreditation for sustainable travel to school.
  23. Over the last 3 years The Council has run a year long campaign with primary schools (MEGA Motion) in which every pupil had to record their mode of travel to school every Friday from October through till the end of June. Pupils were awarded points depending on the mode that they used and then badges, stickers and other prizes were given out at the end of the school year. This year it is a slightly different campaign focussed around the main national sustainable transport campaigns run by national bodies, which it is hoped will be more sustainable in the long term due to uncertainties with funding beyond March 2016. All of the resources are available on the Council's website.
  24. There are two other officers who mainly work with schools, one of whom is focussed on encouraging cycling and the other on walking. They work in schools and deliver activities as well as supporting schools to deliver their own activities to encourage sustainable transport.

### **Next Stages**

- To consider the details of the report.
- To consider the requirements/questions for the meeting with Primary School Governors on 18 January 2016.

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