

Crime and Disorder Select Committee

A meeting of Crime and Disorder Select Committee was held on Thursday, 21st January, 2016.

Present: Cllr Paul Baker(Chairman), Cllr David Wilburn(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Julia Whitehill, Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Officers: Joanne Roberts (Traffic & Network Safety Manager), Graham Birtle (Scrutiny Officer), Jenna McDonald (Governance Officer)

Also in attendance: Cllr Julia Cherrett

Apologies: Jamie Stephenson (Senior Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer)

1 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes for signature - 15 November 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2015 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

AGREED that the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 Draft Minutes - 17 December 2015

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2015.

AGREED that the minutes be approved subject to a minor amendment.

5 Scrutiny Review of School Parking

The Committee received an update on the scrutiny review of School Parking.

Key points and emerging issues were highlighted together as follows:

- It was noted that Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee attended a Governors briefing session at Stockton Sixth Form College on Monday 18 January 2016. Members heard that the meeting considered school parking issues and provided opportunity to engage with schools in the borough. Responses were received at the meeting and were provided within the report.

- Schools were working independently to overcome parking issues; however the Committee would continue to identify solutions to issues which could then be shared across the borough.

- Governors from various primary schools gave responses and shared their own experiences/issues at the meeting, it was noted that issues were similar throughout the borough.

- It was noted that at the Governors briefing session, concerns were raised around how the building Free School would impact on the local area with regard to parking issues.

Members raised the following points/questions:

- It was highlighted that as a result of surveys carried out in some Billingham Schools, feedback identified that not every school day was problematic with regard to school parking issues. Members noted that Monday's and Friday's were identified to be the days with the most issues. The reason for this was unknown however; it was likely that this was influenced by working patterns of parents/carers.

- Members were informed of the varied start times for schools such as Ingleby Mill and Ingleby Manor. Discussion took place around the possibility of staggered start times for Key Stage 1 and 2 in order to improve parking issues.

- Members raised concerns with regard to the 'ten minute window' for dropping off a child at school. Members requested further information and were informed that school doors did not open until 8:50am and closed at 9:00am. It was highlighted that children were not to be left unaccompanied until 8:50am.

- It was heard that consistent themes were identified which highlighted the expectation of more Enforcement action to be taken and more fines to be issued however, due to cost, this was not possible. It was noted that while additional resources were not available, issues could potentially be improved by implementing staggered start times and highlighting the importance of cooperation.

In addition to the discussions around the Governors Briefing Session, the Committee discussed school parking issues further.

- It was noted that enforcement and traffic regulations had previously been considered by the Committee, it was asked that the Committee also gave consideration to alternative methods which could be used to change people's behaviour.

- The Committee was informed of information/suggestions from Let Me Out: How to enjoy the school run by Ann Kenrick.

- It was important to understand the behaviour of those parking illegally on the school run.

The following points/questions were raised by the Committee:

- Members expressed concerns with regard to the possible difficulties of enforcing alternative methods

- It was highlighted that illegal parking on grass verges often resulted in damage

to the verge and therefore created a negative impression of the town and created more work for departments such as Care For Your Area

- With regard to the School Admissions process, Members agreed that application forms should include a section on envisaged transport arrangements to and from school.

- It suggested that consideration be given to Public Space Protection Orders around schools.

- It was highlighted that some Head Teachers considered shuttle busses however this was dismissed due to cost. It was noted that the introduction of walking buses around the Borough could have a positive impact and reduce parking issues.

- The Committee was keen to introduce drop off points within all schools where it was possible for the child to arrive and be taken onto the school grounds by a designated member of staff from the school. It was highlighted that drop off points existed at some schools however, this was often not utilised. It was noted that if schools implemented drop off points, it was important to ensure that all entrances to the school were attended to by a member of staff. It was suggested that drop off points could be difficult to implement in some schools due to location and surroundings.

- Members agreed that not only was it important to focus on parents/carers, it was equally important to encourage children to cycle or walk to school if possible. It was noted that some schools in the Borough engaged with children by organising programmes such as Walk to School Week and Bike to School Week.

- Members acknowledged that staggering school times would be a difficult challenge and was likely to be challenged by the Teachers' Unions

- It was highlighted that children should be awarded for walking and biking to school and encouraging others to do so. It was heard that awards had previously been implemented in one school however, this was unsuccessful and lasted for only a short period of time

- Members were keen to receive feedback from the Governors Briefing Session, it was heard that the Governors Support Service would be utilised for responses

- The Committee discussed the possibility of having a Road Safety Champion in each school within the Borough. It was suggested that an award could be offered for school champions as a Council recognition.

AGREED that:

1. Members noted the points from the discussion at the Governors Briefing Session.

2. Consideration be given to alternative methods for dealing with school parking issues.

3. Work be carried out at after school clubs.
4. A representative from School Admissions attend a future Committee meeting.

6 Work Programme

Members gave consideration to the work programme 2015-16.

It was noted that the banning of dog exercise on sport playing fields could be a potential future review topic.

The Committee was keen to receive more information, costs and figures on the CCTV van referred to in a previous meeting.

AGREED that:

1. The work programme be noted.
2. Members gave consideration to future review topics.

7 Chair's Update

The Chairman made Members aware of Londonderry Bridge in Newtown being lifted and therefore causing a redirection of traffic. The Chairman raised concerns regarding the redirection of traffic on two school routes.

The Chairman invited Members to see the site that a site in order to experience the potential future impacts of the redirected traffic.

AGREED that the update be noted.