

Crime and Disorder Select Committee

A meeting of Crime and Disorder Select Committee was held on Thursday, 28th April, 2016.

Present: Cllr David Wilburn(Chair), Cllr Paul Rowling(Vice-Chair), Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Allan Mitchell, 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: Harry Simpson (Cleveland Police), J. Hart, E. Skidmore, J. Deacon, N. Deacon, D. Brown, Mr & Mrs Gardner (Public), Cllr Julia Cherrett

Apologies: Cllr Matthew Vickers, Jamie Stephenson (Senior Enforcement Officer)

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2016 - for signature

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2016 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2016 - for approval

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2016.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

4 Scrutiny Review of School Parking

The Committee received information on a submission from Thornaby residents expressing concerns around school parking issues in their area. It was noted that the submission was received by Stockton Borough Council in March 2016.

Members heard that some concerns included; speeding, parking on grass verges, obstruction of entrances to driveways and reducing access for emergency services.

Residents were given the opportunity to expand on concerns and personal experiences. Key points were highlighted as follows:

- One resident that had young children, was concerned around cars blocking the drive and therefore restricting emergency access on and off the drive.

- One resident caring for an elderly relative with health issues was concerned about not being able to access the relatives drive before and after numerous hospital appointments due to cars obstructing the driveway.

- Residents raised concerns around the risks of the speed in which cars travelled in the area, it was noted that sharp bends in the road together with the speed of the traffic was alarming.
- It was heard that parking issues did not only exist during school hours but also on an evening during numerous out of school classes and activities.
- Residents raised concerns around the number of vehicles for sale advertised on the road side and parked inconsiderately.

Those in attendance of the meeting were asked by the Committee whether they had any suggestions to solve the issues. Suggestions included:

- The local playing field to be used for parking
- Restricting parking to residents only
- Erecting bollards
- Installing cameras
- H Markings

Members agreed that the most appropriate approach to dealing with school parking issues would be to deal with each school individually as opposed to adopting the same approach for all schools.

The Traffic and Network Safety Manager in attendance of the meeting raised the following points in response to the discussion amongst residents and Members:

- With regard to parking on the Harold Wilson site, it was noted the site was barrier controlled and would therefore require a resource implication of an Enforcement Officer's attendance at the site twice daily to open and lock the barrier.
- In response to the discussion around the possibility of introducing resident parking, it was noted that resident parking could not be issued during school hours as it would not be possible to enforce. It was highlighted that there was no policy for introducing residents parking at schools and they were only introduced where there was an alternative such as town centres or hospitals.
- Following on from previous discussions relating to the Camera Car used by Hartlepool Borough Council, it was explained that there were limitations to what the car could be used to enforce however, it could be used to enforce school parking issues.
- In relation to the suggestion of erecting bollards on verges, it was heard that this could be considered as part of the ward Councillors Community Participation Budget.
- Members noted that while suggestions of opening up car parks for school parking were considered, even if it was feasible and funding was available to introduce car parks it was likely that many people would chose not to park in a car park if they were unable to exit promptly as everyone is leaving at the same time due to congestion.

- It was highlighted that in order to implement a 20mph zone and amber flashing lights, a speed survey would be required. It should be noted that Kintyre Drive already has a mandatory speed limit of 20mph and an advisory 20mph school zone is in place on Thornaby Road.

- With regard to the concerns raised around vehicles for sale parked on the roadside, it was noted that Officers could enforce this under the Community Accreditation Scheme.

- Members agreed that it was important to focus on the number of passengers travelling to school in each car and working towards maximising the number of people per car whilst minimising the number of cars.

The Chair of Governors Norton Primary Academy attended the meeting in order to contribute to the review of School Parking. Key points raised by the Chair of Governors can be summarised as follows:

- Exercises took place with Y6 Students and teachers which involved identifying parking issues around the school grounds.

- Members were presented with a map which detailed the school grounds including roads surrounding the school and also highlighted the prime locations for parking issues.

- It was noted that despite empty spaces in a nearby car park, drivers continued to park inconsiderately and illegally.

- Members heard that the double yellow lines around Norton Primary were extremely faded and difficult to see.

- It was asked whether it would be possible to implement Zebra Crossings and dedicated walking lines for safety around the school. In response, it was heard that as the identified areas were not in adopted highway the informal markings would be considered.

- Suggestions were made to close one entrance of the school to traffic and turn into a footpath in order to reduce risk.

It was suggested that since these issues were in the majority within the school site that it was within their remit to implement them and Officers could assist if required.

Further to discussions in previous meetings relating to the Camera Cars used by neighbouring Local Authorities, it was noted that the cost of purchasing the North Tyneside camera car was £46,000. With this cost and associated initial start up costs including the back office costs, year one cost of the car was £83,500 and the on-going cost of the car was £8,000 per year. It was highlighted that the cost to lease a camera car was £2,100 per month/£25,200 per year. It was explained that in North Tyneside, 60 tickets per month were issued as a result of the camera car.

At the meeting held on 3 March 2016, Members requested cost of employing an Enforcement Officer for a 12 month period. The Committee was informed that

the cost of an Enforcement Officer post ranged from £23,000 - £25,000 per year in addition to training costs.

Inspector Andrew Simpson from Cleveland Police was in attendance of the meeting. Members were provided with an overview of the work carried out by Cleveland Police surrounding issues of School Parking. Key points were highlighted as follows:

- It was explained that enforcement, education and engineering were the three key points when considering casualty reduction.

- The Committee was made aware of Operation Imperial which was due to be launched by press week commencing 2 May 2016. It was noted that Operation Imperial would focus on enforcement around schools including parking issues, seatbelt issues, speeding and passenger numbers.

- Members were asked to nominate two schools within the Borough to be involved in the launch of operation Imperial.

AGREED that:

1. Resident suggestions be considered by the Traffic and Network Safety Manager.

2. The Traffic and Network Safety Manager liaise with schools in order to report issues around staff parking.

3. Consideration be given to the implementation of dedicated walking lines and zebra crossings around Norton Primary Academy.

4. Casualty Statistics relating to schools be provided at a future meeting.

5 Work Programme

Members gave consideration to the Committee work programme.

AGREED that the work programme be noted.

6 Chair's Update

The Chair provided no update.