

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL  
RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL**



**JOINT COMMITTEE (RUNNYMEDE)**

**DATE: 18 JULY 2018**

**ITEM 6 – WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS**

Question from Cllr. Gill Warner, Egham Hythe

Parking restrictions around the Grange and New Haw schools – The Avenue and Manor Drive.

Given the ongoing parking problems experienced in The Avenue & Manor Drive in Woodham in connection with the school-run, will the Committee say what can be done to implement the following suggestions to improve the situation for residents:

1. Review enforcement staffing and operations around school areas, perhaps forming a specific task force and new enforcement posts specifically to cover school areas (the aim being to promote better compliance from school drivers and provide a clear sign to residents that something is being done to improve the situation).
  
2. Review current parking restrictions around the Grange and New Haw schools – The Avenue and Manor Drive (possibly to be copied to other schools?)
  - i) Review current restriction timings so that some are in force only during school hours, thus providing more parking outside school hours for local residents, and alleviating the impression that residents are given more tickets than school users who are seen by the residents to be causing a bigger impact and getting off lightly.
  - ii) Review Pick up and Drop off ability on school diagonals, with the possibility of removal due to abuse and to allow enforcement to keep the area clear. Currently enforcement agents cannot move drivers on or ticket them without allowing a specified time to elapse in order to ascertain whether the vehicle is parked or simply using drop off and pick up time; this is often abused for parking purposes and adds to blockages of the highway.
  
3. Review The Avenue and Manor Drive for one-way potential. The schools currently try to operate a voluntary one-way system and this could be made mandatory, starting at the entrance to The Avenue up to and subsequently flowing down Manor Drive to its end meeting Grange Road. This may assist traffic flows at peak times.

**Officer response**

1 The problems related to the schools at this location are experienced at pretty much every school in the Borough. Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO) are deployed to schools on a regular basis and this site has received particular attention due to the number of complaints received. The officers do have to attend other school sites in the Borough to deal with similar issues at those. The Officers are also responsible for

looking after the whole Borough including the Town Centres and other high demand areas. They cannot therefore be tasked exclusively to school enforcement.

2 (i) Yellow lines do allow for the dropping off and picking up of passengers. CEOs are therefore required to allow a five minute observation period before issuing a Penalty Charge Notice to demonstrate that exempted activity is not taking place. Inevitably, in most cases, the drivers move off during that observation period. The area in question is marked with double yellow lines which prohibit waiting at any time. Officers patrolling at the weekend cover the entire Borough and will deal with any vehicle they find committing contraventions. Should residents choose to park in contravention of the lines then they are in jeopardy of receiving a PCN. It would be inappropriate to enforce some sites and not others.

Requests for more restrictions around the school in The Avenue and Manor Drive have been received as part of the current Parking Review; some residents clearly want more, and some want fewer. Parking restrictions are not installed to punish residents. They are installed to improve one or more of the following reasons which must have been identified in the past:

- Road safety
- Access for emergency vehicles
- Access for refuse vehicles
- Easing traffic congestion
- Better regulated parking
- Better enforcement

The results of the Parking Review will be brought to the Joint Committee in September 2018.

2 (ii) The school yellow zig-zags markings indicate 'no-stopping' areas outside school gates. These only operate at certain times of the day, during school term times. We would not consider removing any of these restrictions as it goes against all good practice, road safety guidance and council policy.

3 A mandatory one-way system would have to operate at all times and extensive consultation would have to be undertaken with the local community about any such proposal before it could be introduced. Depending on where residents live and are travelling to and from, a one-way system could result in the inconvenience of having to travel a greater distance. As such, there are likely to be significant objections from some residents to the introduction of a mandatory one-way system. In addition, it could result in an increase in vehicle speeds since drivers no longer have to expect the possibility of encountering vehicles travelling in the opposite direction.

To overcome the problems that would potentially be created for local residents by the introduction of a mandatory one-way system, there are a number of locations near schools where the parents operate a voluntary one-way system at school drop off and pick up times. Whilst there is no formal signing and a voluntary one-way system cannot be enforced, they can often be effective in helping improve traffic flows at busy school times without adversely impacting on residents at other times.

It is understood that the schools in New Haw have operated a voluntary one-way system along The Avenue and Manor Drive for a number of years. There will

inevitably be occasions where drivers travel against the voluntary one-way system since they are unaware of its existence. However, given the nature of the roads, this will generally be a very small number of motorists (such as delivery drivers). Local residents, who will be aware of the arrangement, will generally respect voluntary one-way systems if they need to travel to and from their houses at school drop off and pick up times (partly due to the difficulty of travelling against the general flow of parents).

It should also be noted that if a mandatory one-way system were introduced, there is still likely to be a small number of drivers that will contravene the restriction to avoid travelling a greater distance.

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