

School Road, Ringsfield – Points for Discussion

Issues affecting residents of School Road are as follows;-

1. Parking at school opening and closing times.
2. Use by heavy/wide vehicles.
3. Vehicle speed
4. Damage to verges.

School Road Condition – From Redisham Road to the school the road has a minimum width of 4.6m (15 feet) and has a surfaced footpath on the southern side. There is some residents parking on the road and some parking on hard standings belonging to individual properties and installed when the properties were constructed some 50 years ago.

School Parking – The catchment area for Ringsfield Primary School is quite extensive and no bus service appears to be available to transport pupils to and from school.

Many pupils are transported to and from school in parents' cars.

This results in extensive vehicle parking from the Redisham Road junction to the school, including the service road, for in excess of 30 minutes before and up to school opening and closing times while parents drop off their children.

Parking space at School Farm is available but current use is not clear.

This results in School Road becoming single file with traffic passing through with considerable difficulty and danger (due to visibility splays being obscured) and also access problems for residents.

Emergency vehicles have been obstructed due to the extensive parking and resulting obstruction.

Heavy Vehicle Use - Since the completion of the southern relief road School Road has seen an increase in the volumes of very long and heavy vehicles using the road.

Very large agricultural vehicles also use the road to access the anaerobic digestion facility at Ellough. At times these vehicles are almost in convoy and travel at school opening and closing times resulting in gridlock.

Vehicle Speed - Various vehicles exceed the 30mph (and 20mph advisory limit by the school). These have been recorded at various times.

Damage to Verges – Due to width of the carriageway, on street parking and heavy vehicle use, verges have been extensively damaged resulting in 600mm being destroyed and deep potholes being created.

Solutions

School Parking –

- a. Restrict drop off & collection periods – very difficult to enforce if parents aren't co-operative. Some help from school required.
- b. Education Authority to provide adequate car parking adjacent the school – proposal for car parking opposite the school is dependent on the residential development going ahead however children and parents will have to cross School Road at busy periods so potential danger.

Heavy Vehicles –

- c. Impose weight restriction during specific times – difficult to enforce plus some vehicles need to access farms situated off School Road and Ilketshall so co-operation and scheduling necessary.

Speeding –

- d. Frequent visits by Police Safety Camera - cost.
- e. Install traffic calming measures (speed humps or chicane). Chicane may not be practical for large vehicles.

Verges –

- f. Widen School Road, particularly between 14 to 24 School Road. Residents are in favour of this. Although there is an argument that this will increase speeding this is unlikely as only a short stretch of School Road will be affected. Could be done in conjunction with traffic calming measures.