

2nd September 2010

Dear CPS/Wilts CC, (Corsham Primary School and Wilts CC Committee)

I note with great consternation that the 'old' entrance to this school on the B3109, Bradford Road has been fenced off and a new entrance constructed some fifty-or-so metres away. As you no doubt realise, the Bradford Road carries quite a bit of traffic from the day-to-day motor car, through buses (the FGW 231 and 232 services and all the 'small' buses) and construction traffic (large M.J. Church stone-carrying trucks use this route regularly) to frequent agricultural traffic (Freeman Brothers use this road for their large-scale agricultural hire business, I guess for all customers east of Rudloe). At rush-hour times (and often throughout the day) this road, particularly beyond Fiveways junction towards Bradford is used as a race track. I walk the road regularly and often see vehicles travelling at ridiculous speeds (70 mph+). Please see attached short movies, taken today, at the site of the new entrance (although short, the size of the movies necessitates sending two emails, so one is attached and the second will be sent in a follow-up email).

The 'old' entrance to the school is about ten metres (path distance) from the road, at a higher level than the road and behind a secure metal post/rail fence. The new entrance 'opens' directly onto the road (outer fence to kerb distance is about two metres). I cannot imagine who, in their right mind, made the decision to relocate the entrance? The only plausible reason that comes to mind is that it was perhaps difficult for mothers with prams/pushchairs to negotiate the steps. However this entrance had been used since the opening of the new Box Highlands School in 1984. So twenty-six years use without any problems (or perhaps you know better) and then a decision is taken to put life and limb at risk by opening a new entrance in a wholly inappropriate location. If prams/pushchairs were the problem then simple solutions (perhaps a ramp of some kind) could have been adopted at the old entrance.

I would imagine that the cost of the new entrance, in terms of planning and construction would run into thousands of pounds. Why, at a time when you should be reducing wasteful spending, has such an unnecessary enterprise been funded?

This stretch of the Bradford Road has become quite scenic in recent years, in autumn and winter particularly, with the growth of the trees on the south side of the road. I have many (what I consider to be!) lovely pictures of this short stretch of the B3109. I would not like to see a plethora of speed-limit and 'slow' signs spring-up which would ruin the vista. Talking of which, the eyesore of a sign advertising the opening of Snapdragons Nursery in November 2009 has been blotting the landscape for the best part of a year now - when will it be removed?

In summary, the new entrance to Corsham School, Broadwood site is in a wholly inappropriate location, on a fast and heavily-used stretch of road and, I have no doubt, constitutes a danger to life and limb for its users. I would recommend that this entrance is never used.

I have assigned a 'high-importance' level to this email as the start of the school year is approaching and I would not want to see my concerns realised.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner
29 Springfield Close
Rudloe
Corsham SN13 0JR

2nd September 2010

Dear SH&S & RSE, (Wilts CC School Health & Safety and Road Safety)

Please see my email below regarding a new Corsham Primary School, Broadwood site entrance on the B3109 (apologies for the email chain being displayed - this appears to be a consequence of the recently-updated Hotmail software). Unfortunately, it seems that the short movie that I attached to the original email may have caused rejection so I did not attach the movie to this subsequent re-send.

Did Wilts SH&S or RSE have any input to the entrance re-siting process?

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

Note: 'high importance' for reason given in the original email

3rd September 2010

Dear Mr Turner

Thank you for your email. The Corporate Health and Safety Service has not been involved or aware of this project, but I have passed your emails on to Neil Ward in strategic property services and he, or a member of his team, will be responding to your comments shortly. This team is not usually involved in projects of this nature as there would have been planning involvement which would include safety and environmental aspects. If you do not hear anything please do not hesitate to contact us again.

Regards

Louise Kamm

Safety Support Officer for Schools
Occupational Health & Safety
Department of Resources
Tel: 01225 718248

3rd September 2010

Dear Dev Man North, (Wilts CC Development Management North)

(Hopefully 'forwarding' this email chain will work as it should - if not, please get back to me [problems with new hotmail version!])

Were you involved in the planning process, particularly the safety aspects, of the relocation of the B3109 Bradford Road entrance to Corsham Primary School, Broadwood Site? Please see my email below which expresses great concern about this new entrance.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

4th September 2010

Dear Elspeth, (Chair, school governors)

Please see email below ('copied and pasted' rather than 'forwarded' as the latest version of Hotmail has some problems).

I am shocked that this enterprise has been allowed to proceed with, apparently, very little consultation (certainly parents have not been consulted). With presumably a wealth of local knowledge and expertise, how could the school governors not have censured this utter folly?

I have lived at Rudloe for 35 years, my (our!) children moved from the old Box Highlands to the school's present site in 1984. They and all subsequent generations of children walking from the Springfield Close, Clift Close, Highlands Close and Kidston Way (etc) have used the back entrance to the school **safely for twenty-six years**. Now, for apparently flimsy reasons, life and limb is to be put at risk. Can you imagine, in winter in particular, children walking along this stretch of road with nothing, apart from a small kerb, separating them from the 44-ton lorries (or buses, or Freeman's agricultural vehicles etc) rushing by? This decision and the fact the no one has put his or her head above the parapet to point out the absolute madness of this move is almost beyond belief.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

5th September 2010

Dear Sirs, (Wilts CC Committee (committee@wiltshire.gov.uk); Corsham Primary Broadwood (broadwood@corsham-pri.wilts.sch.uk); Corsham Primary School (admin@corsham-pri.wilts.sch.uk); Corsham Primary School Governors (govs@corsham-pri.wilts.sch.uk); Wilts CC Development Management (developmentmanagementnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk); schoolhealthandsafety@wiltshire.gov.uk; roadsafetyeducation@wiltshire.gov.uk; Councillor Richard Tonge (richard.tonge@wiltshire.gov.uk); areaboardsnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk; Dave Roberts Wilts Community Area Manager (dave.roberts@wiltshire.gov.uk); angela.grodzicka@wiltshire.gov.uk)

I have sent emails over the past few days to Corsham Primary School (CPS); Wilts County Council 'committee', 'schoolhealthandsafety', 'roadsafetyeducation' and the planning department; local councillor Dick Tonge and Corsham Primary School governors regarding the "utter folly" of moving the Bradford Road entrance of CPS Broadwood site from its present safe (for twenty-six years) location to a point some fifty metres away directly beside the fast, heavily-used B3109.

As the emails have been sent 'individually', I thought it necessary, in view of the impending school-year start, to bring together all the points I wish to raise in one email to all addressees. I suppose I should apologise for the lateness of my response to the moving of the gate but, firstly, I have been away for much of July and August and, secondly, I never in my wildest dreams believed that the new gate was to be used as a replacement for the old gate (I thought it was some kind of 'emergency' access for the fire service for example).

I am led to believe that the reason given for the moving of the gate is that the current access route to the school is not 'Disability Discrimination Act' (DDA) compliant perhaps with particular regard to parents with prams or buggies. Undoubtedly, the (old!) stepped entrance is not perfect for prams/buggies but parents (ourselves included) have been using this entrance safely for twenty-six years. When Box Highlands school was moved to its current location in 1984, why did the planners locate the B3109 entrance at that particular spot? That was a rhetorical question of course - the answer is obvious. If a pram/buggy-friendly entrance is required to comply with the DDA then the solution is clear (to me!) - create such an entrance at the present (old!) 'safe' location - do not move it to a spot directly adjacent to a busy road which carries almost all the local and regional bus traffic, heavy goods traffic (apart from general goods traffic, this is a route frequently used by the very large aggregate-carrying vehicles from Whatley quarry at Frome), heavy agricultural traffic (Freeman Brothers at Rudloe use this route for all their clients east of Rudloe) and, of course, regular motor traffic. Can you imagine, in winter particularly, small children and mothers with buggies or prams using the 'new' entrance with 44-ton heavy-goods vehicles rushing by just a couple of feet away! This is absolute madness! Wilts County Council's 'Schools, Education and Learning' webpage begins with the words "We aim to help children and young people to be healthy and stay safe ...". DDA documentation states that: "A school is not required to do anything under its scheme that is unreasonable or impracticable". This

move is, without any doubt, unreasonable and puts children at great risk (see next para.).

In July 2009, the mother of a CPS (I believe) child was killed at the B3109/A4 junction. David Plummer, a Rudloe resident, was killed in August 2007 on the B3109 some 200 metres from the entrance to Rudloe Estate. Some years ago Mrs Ryan, a Rudloe resident, was killed at the Skynet Drive/Park Lane junction. Another Rudloe resident, Janet Slocombe, was also killed on the B3109 at Thorneypits. My brother-in-law was involved in a collision at the B3109/A365 junction when the occupants of the 'other' car (who were Rudloe residents) had to be cut from the car. Roads (the B3109 included) are dangerous places! I believe that Wilts CC and CPS envisage that parents will be parking on the B3109 in order to access the 'new' gate! Again, what madness! How do you imagine that parents can park, exit their vehicles (opening doors onto oncoming traffic), usher their charges through the school gates and regain access to their vehicles 'safely' on such a busy road? Parking here is not only dangerous but would cause an obstruction to buses and other traffic which, with the imminent opening of the MoD Basil Hill site, will increase significantly.

Again I believe that the 'new' entrance is aimed at Katherine Park residents? There are no access routes given on the CPS website for the CPS Broadwood site (contrary to DDA requirements?) but using the website tools provided (Google etc) one can find a route. The route suggested for Katherine Park residents is Park Lane, Skynet Drive, turning right onto the B3109 and then left into Rudloe estate. This, as you will know, is contrary to the traffic signing - there is a 'no right turn' sign at the Skynet Drive/B3109 junction. If Wilts CC/CPS wishes Katherine Park residents to drive to the new entrance then the route would be Park Lane to the junction with Westwells Road, turn right up to the Fiveways roundabouts and right again down the B3109. Turning right at the Park Lane/Westwells Road junction is difficult now at rush-hour time and will become even more so with the opening of MoD Basil Hill.

There is significant scope around CPS Broadwood site to improve traffic circulation and parking. I believe that Rudloe Community Centre has offered its parking places to parents dropping-off and picking-up children from the school. There is a 'circuit' which would improve traffic circulation: that is the opening up a new entrance at the end of Bankwaters Road which incoming traffic could use, exiting through the present entrance in Broadwood Avenue. If necessary, and I guess with the permission of the MoD, Portal Avenue could also be used. These are all 'safe' options. Wilts CC and CPS should be looking at long-term, 'sustainable' and safe solutions to school access. Such a solution for children from Katherine Park would be a bus service. A bus could use a 'bus gate' controlled by traffic lights at the B3109/Skynet Drive/Rudloe Estate junction. Such a system, of which I have a little experience (as a user), is used at the A322/Crowthorne Road junction in Bracknell.

As I indicated in the second paragraph above, I find it hard to believe that this enterprise ever left the drawing board. What are the combined brains of the school staff, governors, Wilts CC planning staff and so on thinking - that the 'solution' to a relatively superficial problem is to put life and limb of the children in their charge at risk - incredible! I firmly believe that the 'new'

entrance should never be used; that the 'old' entrance should be re-opened immediately and that action should be taken forthwith to plan for the creation of a buggy/pram-friendly entrance alongside the 'old' entrance.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

5th September 2010

Dear Mr Turner

Thank you for your email regarding the relocation of the school gate adjacent to the Bradford Road. We were delighted to know that a local resident is taking such a keen interest in the school and its developments. We also understand that unless you have all the necessary information you might assume the school has acted in some way irresponsibly.

Due to the increase in children attending the school we are now admitting children from a large catchment area; more families are coming to the school from Katherine Park and Box. That, coupled with the fact that we are not compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act has left us no option other than to act. It is true to say we have had two families object to the reallocation of the gate but there have been far more complaining about lack of appropriate access from the west side of the school and we have had to take their views into account. You will be aware that the original gate could only be accessed up a flight of steps making it very difficult for mums with buggies and prams. Governors did consider installing a ramp but ruled it out when the scale of ground works was discussed and it still did not solve the problem of wheel chair access to the main building.

The school has made representations to the Corsham Area Board about speed restrictions on the Bradford Road and spoken directly to local councillors in the hope that a solution can be found. The highways department have been consulted and we are very hopeful that once the school opens on Monday 6th September they will be fitting barriers along this stretch of the road. We are pleased that the department has cleared the pavement over the summer break, again at our request. The school has of course consulted the Planning and Education Departments and permission for the work has been given. We are working closely with the Rudloe community and we hope the opening of the gate will result in a reduction of cars entering the estate.

The school has worked hard to ensure it meets disability legislation while also responding positively to the needs of the majority of parents who want easier access to the school grounds. We are sorry that you should feel otherwise.

We would be extremely happy to work with you to put pressure on the council to implement speeding restrictions on the Bradford Road. We would also like to see a zebra crossing installed making a safe crossing place especially near the bus stops.

Thank you again for taking such an interest in the school and community.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Allen

Executive Headteacher on Behalf of the Governing Body

Dear Mr Turner

I have come into school this evening to respond to your first email only to discover another sent today.

As I have already said we respect your option and understand why you would feel the school and local authority have not used their "brains" in this matter. I hope our first email has gone some way to explain the school's position.

I think your email outlines a greater problem than the location of the school gate, rather that of traffic on the Bradford Road. As I have said the school has made representations to the Corsham Area Board and we will continue to work with the community to solve this problem.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Allen

Executive Headteacher on behalf of the Governing Body

6th September 2010

Dear Mrs Allen,

Thanks for the response. Apologies if I have caused extra work in what must be a busy weekend for you (and more work with my points below!). Apologies also for the perhaps inappropriate language used in some paragraphs but the emails were fired off in some haste in view of the impending school-year start and my strong feelings on the subject. Unfortunately, your response whilst reaffirming the reasons for the relocation of the gate (non-compliance with DDA etc), does not address the issues I raised which include the following (hopefully, the following bullet list will work - it doesn't always):

- Requiring schoolchildren and their parents to, unnecessarily, walk 100 metres (I paced it out today) along a busy, fast stretch of road when, if the 'old' gate had been left in place, they could have continued, by their own choice, to use the old, safe entrance. Why force everyone to use, what I consider to be, an entrance in an unsafe location? You have not addressed this question.
- You have not quoted 'chapter and verse' with regard to DDA legislation. How, in particular are you not complying with the DDA? The main entrance is surely the option for the disabled (see next bullet). Have there been any requirements over twenty-six years for wheelchair access to the B3109 entrance? Remember, a school is not required to do anything under its (DDA) scheme that is unreasonable or impracticable.
- You appear to confirm that you envisage Katherine Park parents driving to school and parking along the B3109 with your statement "reduction of cars entering the estate". As I stated, for many reasons, this is not a good long-term, sustainable or safe option. You have not addressed my issue of parents stopping on a busy road, alighting from and re-entering their cars by opening doors against the flow of traffic on a busy road and so on. The estate is a relatively safe environment for children to be dropped-off and picked-up and if congestion is a problem, there are options given in my email which could help to resolve this issue. You have not addressed these issues.
- With regard to the steps at the old entrance, simple 'technology' is available to combine steps and ramps in order to be pram- or buggy-friendly. This 'technology' is used, for example, in Gibraltar which given its nature has many such (very long!) stepped/ramped areas (I could include a photo but I am concerned that your email server would disallow attachments). I cannot credit that, given this rather superficial problem, you have created a situation which has 'grewed like Topsy' (new entrance, barriers, parking, probable road signs etc) and in doing so put life and limb at risk. Could you answer this point?

I appreciate that given the school-year start today, you will have many items on your agenda. Perhaps Wilts CC Planning or one of the other addressees could respond to these issues as well as the other issues raised in my email sent yesterday morning.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

6th September 2010

Dear CPS/Wilts CC,

I have been out monitoring the situation on the B3109 for about 30 minutes this morning. I noted that no one from the school or Wilts CC was there to see how this new entrance was working - why not - are you content just to sit back and wait for the crash? I noted the following:

- Only two sets of parents returned (walking) up the B3109. The one I spoke to took her children to school via Leafy Lane and Portal Avenue rather than run the risk of using your new route (I do the same - whenever our grandchildren are with us, I take the same route to access the 'elephant grass field' at the Corsham end of Rudloe estate).
- By 9:20, with the gate closed, four cars remained parked on the B3109. Are these cars parked here for the day? With Rudloe Community Centre offering car parking facilities, why were these cars not parked safely there?
- In the short time I was there, four traffic 'incidents' occurred:
- 1. The 231/232 (big) bus was heading towards Corsham and approaching the parked cars when a car came steaming around the corner heading towards Bradford. The bus had to slam on its brakes and pull in.
- 2. Very similar to 1. with a low-loader carrying a mechanical digger had to brake hard (this is the kind of heavy traffic that uses this road!).
- 3. Two cars heading towards Corsham with the second tail-gating the first. The second car did not appreciate that there were parked cars in the road and continued to head towards the cars until the last minute when it swerved out to miss them.
- 4. Similar to 3. with two cars heading towards Corsham. In spite of a car in the other lane heading towards Bradford, the two Corsham-bound cars 'took a chance' and pulled-out causing the Bradford-bound car to brake and actually come to a complete stop!

As I indicated in my earlier emails, use of the new entrance is not a long-term solution to any congestion issues you may have. It is not sustainable, not safe and sooner or later an accident will happen (probably sooner if my 30 minutes monitoring experience is anything to go by). And no, do not spend more time, effort and money trying to fix the wrong solution! Please take note of the suggestions and comments I made in my emails and implement (or revert to) simple, safe, common sense solutions. Why are you playing Russian Roulette with the lives of children?

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

6th September 2010

Dear Sirs,

I have just returned to the B3109 to check on the new entrance situation. I thought that parking on the B3109 for perhaps two twenty-minute 'windows' at school-start and -end times was bad enough, but two cars are still parked on the road now at mid-day. What madness is this (apologies, I am reverting to imprudent language again but I have been driven to it!)? When there are numerous possibilities for safe parking on Rudloe Estate (or even in Springfield Close

which some parents used to use to access the old gate) people involved in the education of our children are choosing to park on this busy bus route causing an obstruction to traffic. Do these people have no common sense? What insensitivity to show such disregard to other road users and to the dangerous situation they are creating! Incredible, absolutely incredible.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

6th September 2010

Dear CPS & Wilts CC,

A few more points with regard to your new entrance to Corsham Primary School - Broadwood site. Firstly an erratum and an addendum:

erratum: the lady that was killed at the Skynet Drive/Park Lane junction was Mrs Kelly, not Mrs Ryan

addendum: in the list of those Rudloe residents and others killed or injured (that we know of) on the B3109, I omitted to mention a young lady and her horse who lost their lives after being hit by a car at Rudloe Fiveways, just 300 yards or so from your new school entrance

With regard to the 'technology' used in Gibraltar to enable people with prams or buggies to use the many sets of steps in and around the town, I have included some photos (taken today!). I have used these steps/ramps on many occasions with our grandson in a buggy and they work well. As you will see (if the attachments do not disallow the email) there are 'normal' steps on one side of the rail and the pram-/buggy-friendly steps on the other. Apologies that the photos are rather small.

A neighbour (who is also incredulous about the siting of your new entrance and associated issues) has reminded me of the relevant Highway Code rule which you are contravening with regard to parking and stopping (all day!) on the B3109:

Rule 242. You MUST NOT leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

7th September 2010

Dear Mr Turner,

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the new entrance to the Broadwood site of Corsham Primary School on the B3109.

Road Safety Education has forwarded a report along with all of your correspondence to the Highways Department who are now investigating the speed limit issue.

Regarding the parking issues you have observed, we have been working closely with the school in developing their school travel plan, which aims to encourage a modal shift from private car use to more sustainable modes such as walking and cycling, therefore tackling issues such as parking and congestion.

Kind Regards,

Matthew Davies

Matthew Davies
Road Safety Officer
Dept of Neighbourhood & Planning
Wiltshire Council

Dear 7th September 2010

Dear CPS/Wilts CC, (Corsham Primary School (admin@corsham-pri.wilts.sch.uk); Corsham Primary Broadwood (broadwood@corsham-pri.wilts.sch.uk); Corsham Primary School Governors (govs@corsham-pri.wilts.sch.uk); Wilts CC school H&S (schoolhealthandsafety@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC road safety (roadsafetyeducation@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC Committee (committee@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC area board north (areaboardsnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC Education Director PA (angela.grodzicka@wiltshire.gov.uk); Dave Roberts Wilts Community Area Manager (dave.roberts@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC Development Management (developmentmanagementnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk); Councillor Richard Tonge (richard.tonge@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Once again, I have been out monitoring the situation (and chatting to parents) at the site of the new CPS, Broadwood Site entrance on the B3109. I note that, as with yesterday, there was no CPS or Wilts CC presence.

This morning gave an example of how this new entrance (as I have said repeatedly) is unsustainable and unsafe. There was a mist hanging over Rudloe (and presumably elsewhere);

this morning's mist had largely cleared by 8:45 but there will clearly (pun!) be times throughout the autumn and winter when there will be heavy mists or even fog (not to mention snow and ice). Parents and others cannot possibly park on the B3109 in such inclement weather conditions. It was bad enough today when over the period 8:45 to 9:15, there were numerous cases of last-minute braking and traffic coming to a halt because of oncoming traffic on the 'wrong' side. And once again, big buses, pantechincons and low-loaders were involved. And, I repeat, the parked traffic is causing an obstruction contrary to rule 242 of the Highway Code.

I am at a loss to understand why, because of a technicality (parents pushing/pulling buggies etc up/down a short flight of steps which they have done safely for 26 years) which can easily be solved (as I indicated in last night's email illustrating the 'Gibraltar solution'), and/or the supposed requirement for an entrance for the disabled (of whom, there are none at the school as far as I am aware and even if there were, their parents' would be out of their minds to use the B3109 entrance when a safe option is available at the main entrance), that a supposed solution is to put children's, parents' and road-users' lives at risk through a harebrained scheme such as the one you have just implemented.

Is there a 'hidden agenda'? Whatever the real reason for this enterprise, from what has been said so far, it seems we have a situation where the school would like to ensure that a box is ticked fulfilling a technicality against the reality of putting lives at risk. It appears that we have become such a box-ticking and politically-correct society that we have lost sight of the real world. When outside the new school gate last Friday, taking movies to illustrate the traffic types and levels on this road, a passing gent said: "I wouldn't do that if I were you - taking photos outside a school gate". But we can introduce an unnecessary scheme causing traffic chaos and putting lives at risk.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

7th September 2010

Jenny,

This is a response just received a Wilts CC Road Safety Officer. He hasn't addressed any of the 'real' issues, just talks about 'modal shifts' (what?), 'sustainable modes' and other bureaucratic nonsense. I despair.

Paul

6th September 2010

Dear Mr Turner

Yet again thank you for your email.

I think that the schools has made its position quite clear on this matter. As already stated we will be working directly with Wiltshire Council and are confident that a longer term solution will be found regarding the traffic restrictions on the Bradford Road.

I am afraid you are incorrect about staff not being in attendance at the relocated school gate. Staff were on duty from 8.30. Including myself and the new Head of School.

I understand that my Office Manager has confirmed that I am in London today at the Department for Education hence my response via my Blackberry.

Your sincerely

Fiona Allen
Executive Headteacher on behalf of the Governing Body

7th September 2010

Dear Mr Turner

Thank you for your email the contents of which I have noted.

I reiterate that the Head of School was on duty at the gate this morning and again this evening. I strongly refute your allegation that Corsham Primary has some sort of hidden agenda and "that we have become such a box-ticking and politically-correct society that we have lost sight of the real world".

As the school's position has not changed in this matter and discussions are underway with the council about speeding concerns on the Bradford Road I suggest your time would be better spent taking up your concerns directly with them.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Allen

Executive Headteacher on behalf of the GoverningBody

7th September 2010

Dear Mrs Allen,

Thanks for the response.

It is all very well being 'on duty' at the gate - there are bound to be school staff on duty at the gate; my point was (as you well know) that there was no one monitoring the traffic situation on the B3109 to see how the new gate was working, for example, what effect the parked vehicles were having on the traffic flow. Did anyone from the school or Wilts CC do this? If so, what is your/their conclusion? If not, why not?

If speed restrictions are required in order for this to be deemed a safe entrance, why are you allowing its use without such speed restrictions?

In your first email response to me just three days ago, you said: "We were delighted to know that a local resident is taking such a keen interest in the school and its developments" and "Thank you again for taking such an interest in the school and community". Now you say: " I suggest your time would be better spent taking up your concerns directly with them (Wilts CC)". You have soon changed your tune! I guess you are only "delighted" so long as no one upsets the applecart?

Well if you really are delighted that I am taking such an interest and if there is no hidden agenda then please answer the points that I have raised in my emails. As you know, all my emails have been addressed to the council as well as the school and the governors. We ARE talking about the real world here; people's lives are at stake - one of your parents was killed on this road (junction with A4) last year! I realise that only a few days have passed since I raised my concerns, but I am frustrated by the fact that no one has addressed them properly. There appears to be a bureaucratic wall that third parties such as myself cannot cross. The one, short, council response so far included the line: "we have been working closely with the school in developing their school travel plan, which aims to encourage a modal shift from private car use to more sustainable modes such as walking and cycling"! I am talking about potential accidents and the council is talking about "modal shifts". Will you all please respond to the real issues I have raised.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

9th September 2010

Dear Elspeth, (Chair, school governors)

Now I have a face to put with the name! Thanks for telling me about your email. Just a quick response for now as I am working on a comprehensive 'magnum opus' with regard to this issue. I have certainly not been directing my concerns just to Mrs Allen; as you know all my emails have been sent "To:" the school, Wilts CC (seven addressees), the governors and councillor Tonge; it just so happens that Mrs Allen has responded so I have addressed her in my greeting.

Could I remind you that I asked if you would inform Mrs Allen that I will be in Broadwood Avenue tomorrow morning collecting traffic statistics. Also, a 'colleague' and myself may be in the Bradford Road over the coming days taking photographs and measurements for a traffic/road-modelling programme - we will try to do this at the weekend. Could I also request, for statistical purposes, that Corsham School Broadwood site lets me know the number of pupils attending the school this term.

You were very keen to remind me today that the issues I have raised are "my opinions"; well could I ask you (and all the other addressees) for your opinions on the points I have raised both in my emails and personally with you today, to which you have not yet responded and which are as follows:

- Why were parents not consulted about this issue?
- Why have you closed the old gate, when parents wishing to use it could continue to use it?
- Why have you not responded to my question about the DDA and how you are not in compliance with it? Or indeed why disabled parents/pupils should not always use the 'safe' main entrance?
- Why has the new gate been opened before all safety features (barriers) have been put in place?
- Why have two teachers been instructed to, or chosen to, park their cars all day in the Bradford Road causing an obstruction (contrary to rule 242 of the Highway Code) and danger to themselves and other road users when ample safe parking has been put at the school's disposal at Rudloe Community Centre (which could of course also be used by parents)?
- Why have you not responded regarding "my opinion" of the dangers involved in parents with children stopping on this busy road and opening doors against traffic flow and others (three seen today) parking and pulling out against traffic flow (very dangerous practice)? By the way, my "opinion" has been confirmed by what I have witnessed over the past four days, including the incident this morning when a car skidded to a halt behind the two teachers vehicles (when you were present).
- How could this entrance possibly be used in inclement weather (fog or ice/snow)?
- Why has no one from Wilts CC (or perhaps the school) been monitoring the traffic flow situation on the B3109 to see how the new gate is working in practice?

There are many other points too, some of which we touched on today and which will form part of my letter to all current addressees and others, hopefully early next week. The few responses received so far have (deliberately it seems, hence my thought that there was a hidden agenda) avoided all these issues. In view of what has happened thus far, I do not hold out much hope that I will receive any direct response so I will propose under the Freedom of Information legislation to request copies of all inter-school/Wilts CC, intra-school and intra-Wilts CC correspondence and meeting minutes on this matter (and Governors' correspondence and meeting minutes if these are covered by the FOI). As you will know, you will be required by law to respond to this request within 30 days. Once again, I hope to send this request early next week OR if one of the current addressees is in a position to action this request would they please take this as THE request - please let me know.

As I am retired, I am willing to meet with the governors, officials of the school and Wilts CC at any time.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

9th September 2010

Good afternoon

Your concerns regarding the insertion of a gate/s into the fence at the Corsham Primary School – Broadwood Site have been passed to me in planning enforcement to address. Before the works were carried out we were contacted with regard to the need for a planning application to be made to the Local Planning Authority for the works. The School was informed that under the The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 – Part 2 – Class A – Minor Operations (copy attached) planning permission was not required. As there has been no breach of planning control I will be closing the enforcement file on the issue.

Regards

Tamara Orr

Technical Officer - Enforcement

Planning Enforcement

Wiltshire Council (North)

9th September 2010

Dear Mr Turner,

It was good to meet you today, I am sorry I was unable to have a longer discussion with you as I had a meeting to attend. We are holding a Governing Body meeting next week when the issue will be discussed.

Please find a response to your queries below:

🏠 Why were parents not consulted about this issue?

The decision to move the gate was made principally due to the school not providing a pedestrian entrance that complies with DDA regulations. The school had been approached by parents concerned that the pedestrian entrance was not accessible for prams and buggies. There is parental representation on the Governing Body and therefore parents were part of the decision making process. The Governing Body did not deem it necessary to consult with the whole parent body as it was regarded primarily to be an operational decision.

🏠 Why have you closed the old gate, when parents wishing to use it could continue to use it?

The top gate has always presented the school with a security concern as well as the DDA access problem. Due to its location the gate is not visible from the school and there was always the risk that when open people could enter the school property without our knowledge.

🏠 Why have you not responded to my question about the DDA and how you are not in compliance with it? Or indeed why disabled parents/pupils should not always use the 'safe' main entrance?

Whilst you are correct that there is an alternative main entrance it does not provide equality of opportunity. By not making adjustments to the old pedestrian entrance we are not giving everyone the same opportunity or choice when entering the school. For example it would be unacceptable to expect a disabled child or parent to walk the additional distance to the main entrance when other able bodied visitors could access the school through the old pedestrian gate.

📧 Why has the new gate been opened before all safety features (barriers) have been put in place?

The school did inform the Highways Department; they asked the school to inform them when the gate had been moved when they would assess the situation. The school has been in contact with the Highways Department who have visited the school. An Officer will be meeting Mrs Allen on Monday to discuss the barrier; we expect the work to be carried out shortly.

📧 Why have two teachers been instructed to, or chosen to, park their cars all day in the Bradford Road causing an obstruction (contrary to rule 242 of the Highway Code) and danger to themselves and other road users when ample safe parking has been put at the school's disposal at Rudloe Community Centre (which could of course also be used by parents)?

Staff parked their cars adjacent to the gate to let parents know the gate was operational and to provide a barrier until the correct one is fitted. The cars are only parked there in the morning and following your comments staff now move their cars by 10.00 a.m.

📧 Why have you not responded regarding "my opinion" of the dangers involved in parents with children stopping on this busy road and opening doors against traffic flow and others (three seen today) parking and pulling out against traffic flow (very dangerous practice)? By the way, my "opinion" has been confirmed by what I have witnessed over the past four days, including the incident this morning when a car skidded to a halt behind the two teachers vehicles (when you were present).

This is a matter for Wiltshire County Council to address through their Traffic Management Programme. As already stated the school has been in contact with Traffic Officers.

📧 How could this entrance possibly be used in inclement weather (fog or ice/snow)? As already stated the school has had permission from all the relevant traffic and planning departments. The school is not sufficiently qualified to answer this question, this can only be answered by a Traffic Officer.

📧 Why has no one from Wilts CC (or perhaps the school) been monitoring the traffic flow situation on the B3109 to see how the new gate is working in practice?

The school does monitor the children leaving and entering the school premises. We are not qualified Traffic Officers and as such this matter must be undertaken by Wiltshire Council Highways Department. Again we have raised the issue with the appropriate department.

You should know that we have taken your concerns seriously and to date have received responses from the following departments:

🔗 Officers from the Highways have visited and will be on site on Monday, barriers will be fitted shortly.

🔗 The Traffic Planning Department have said that there are plans to introduce speeding restrictions on the Bradford Road, these are currently being agreed. We understand the new limit will be 50 miles per hour. The school does not feel this is slow enough and have responded accordingly.

🔗 The Road Safety Department consider the issue of the gate not to be in their remit.

🔗 The Road Signage Officer has reviewed the signage on the Bradford Road and does not consider any changes to be necessary. The school has written to the Officer with a suggestion that the school will pay for new larger signs. We are currently awaiting a response.

🔗 The school has raised the issue of the Bradford Road with the Corsham Area Board, we are awaiting a response.

The school has thirty days to comply with your request for written information under the Freedom of Information Act. As soon as this task is completed we will post the information on to you. The Governing Body is due to meet on Thursday 16th September when I will organise a date for when Governors can meet with you to discuss your concerns. I will get back to you once this date has been set. Have you any preference for a week commencing 20th September? My preference would be first thing in the morning or last thing in the day to accommodate my work, however I can be more flexible with sufficient notice.

Thank you for informing me that you and a “colleague” will be on Bradford Road and Broadwood Avenue over the coming days “taking photographs and measurements for a traffic/road-modelling programme”.

As discussed today I have spoken to Mrs Allen regarding your request to view the school car park and Mrs Allen and I will meet you at the school gates tomorrow Friday 10th at 8.40 am on the Broadwood Avenue to enable you to look at the car park, this is when the school is at it busiest period. Please be aware that I will need to leave for work at 9am and Mrs Allen will also be taking school assembly the same time.

Please be assured that we do try very hard to answer your queries as promptly as possible, however we are not always available to do so immediately.

Yours sincerely

Elsbeth Griffiths

Chair of Governors

9th September 2010

Dear Tamara,

Thanks for the response. I have copied your attachment into this email below for the benefit of all the other addressees:

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

PART 2

MINOR OPERATIONS

Class A

Permitted development

A. The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alteration of a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure.

Development not permitted

A.1 Development is not permitted by Class A if—

(a) the height of any gate, fence, wall or means of enclosure erected or constructed adjacent to a highway used by vehicular traffic would, after the carrying out of the development, exceed one metre above ground level;

(b) the height of any other gate, fence, wall or means of enclosure erected or constructed would exceed two metres above ground level;

(c) the height of any gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure maintained, improved or altered would, as a result of the development, exceed its former height or the height referred to in sub-paragraph (a) or (b) as the height appropriate to it if erected or constructed, whichever is the greater; or

(d) it would involve development within the curtilage of, or to a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure surrounding, a listed building.

I do not understand your position regarding "planning permission was not required" etc. There are two new gates, an inner and an outer at the same location. The height of each gate is 2.5 metres. As far as I can make out from your Planning Order above, the gates fall under "Development not permitted" as they fail tests (a), (b) and (c) and (d) is not applicable. Would you please clarify.

Yours sincerely
Paul Turner

10th September 2010

Good morning

In this case the proposed works were permitted development under:

Development not permitted:

(c) the height of any gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure **maintained, improved or altered** would, as a result of the development, **exceed its former height or the height referred to in sub-paragraph (a) or (b)** as the height appropriate to it if erected or constructed, whichever is the greater; or

The gates that were proposed would not have exceeded the former height of an existing gate, fence, wall, or means of enclosure that was already in situ which was greater than the heights specified in (a) and (b).

Regards

Tamara Or

10th September 2010

Dear Mrs Allen and Mrs Griffiths,

Thanks for setting up the meeting this morning, taking time from your busy schedules (I can recommend retirement!) and providing me with all the information about the school etc. It was interesting to put another face to a name. I'm surprised that Fiona didn't have a knife tucked into her belt but then I recalled that knives are not allowed in schools.





I was quite surprised that the traffic situation was nowhere near as 'manic' at the main entrance as I thought it might be. As to the matter at hand, I was also very surprised at your response regarding your Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) scheme particularly in relation to the new

gate which I believed had been planned and designed to give disabled access for those pupils coming to school from the western side (Springfield Close etc) and also those pupils arriving by vehicle from the west. I thought that details of your new gate and access would have been incorporated into your existing scheme. The Government describes schools' responsibilities at teachernet.gov.uk - I have copy/pasted a relevant part below:

Summary of schools' statutory responsibilities under disability discrimination and Special Educational Needs legislation.

In addition to the general duty, regulations made under the Part 5A of the DDA set out a specific duty on certain public authorities, including all publicly-funded schools, requiring them to demonstrate how they are meeting the general duty. In effect the general duty sets out what schools have to do; the specific duty sets out how schools have to do it and what they need to record as evidence of what they have done.

The main requirements of the specific duty are to:

-  prepare and publish a disability equality scheme (a scheme);
-  involve disabled people in the development of a scheme;
-  implement the scheme;
-  report on it.

I was surprised to hear Mrs Allen say that you do not have a scheme and that you (the school, governors etc) know your requirements and act accordingly. With all your previous talk about fulfilling DDA requirements this was quite revealing (however, I agree with the sentiment of 'getting on with it' without wasting time on the bureaucracy). Indeed it was particularly revealing when I asked about the feasibility study and subsequent planning by/with appropriate experts, in the disability field, of your new B3109 entrance. If I understood correctly, you intimated that no relevant disability experts were consulted in this process (I am sure you will correct me if I am wrong). Certainly also, apart from the governors' parent members, the parents were not consulted either - you just went ahead with this scheme because it was an "operational decision".

I informed you that, in my opinion, the access you have created cannot be used by the disabled arriving by wheelchair or by vehicle, from the west. I have no disability experience but it is clear (to me) that no expert opinion was requested or advice sought and if not a single member of the school, the governors or Wilts County Council could see the problems then I despair. Perhaps we could meet at the new gate and you can demonstrate how the disabled can access and depart from the new entrance? Clearly no thought has been put into this and no appropriate planning done. The imperative has been: "new gate for operational reasons". The same appears to be true of the barrier you propose to erect - there are multiple issues with the

barrier; I mentioned one or two to Mrs Griffiths on Thursday. Have you run through the issues with Wilts CC? Perhaps you could show me a plan of the new barrier - is there one? There should be if you propose to start work in the near future!

I notice that a banner has just appeared at the new gate: "Corsham Primary. An Outstanding School (Ofsted)". This must have been planned for quite some time - I presume the earlier part of this year. This planned advertising and self-promotion and the fact that no thought whatsoever has been put into disabled access (and probably barriers) or into the danger you are creating by having parents and staff park on the B3109 and children walk 100 metres or more down this busy road compromising their safety illustrates (to me) that your priorities are completely misplaced.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

10th September 2010

Tamara,

Thanks for the clarification. I failed to spot the reference to 'fence' in (c).

Regards

Paul T

10th September 2010

Dear Mr Tuner

We are deeply saddened to read your latest email sent at 14.03. As a school we have attempted to respond to your many questions and requests regarding the position of the Bradford Road pedestrian school gate. Today, in an act of good faith we at short notice rearranged our diaries to enable you to view the school car park. Our discussion took place outside, in a public arena and we tried, in that context, to answer more of your questions.

You have quite clearly taken some of our comments out of context and misrepresented the discussions. Your email implies that the school is incompetent, is not complying with statutory responsibilities and has acted inappropriately which is not accurate.

As a point of note in our discussions you asked about a "DDA scheme for the gate" we were quite rightly confused as to what you were referring to. You have now in your email

confirmed that you were referring to a Single Equality Scheme. I can confirm that the school does have such a scheme as part of its policies and procedures

As a result of your latest email we are now seeking legal and police advice on how best to go forward with this matter. It is clear that you will relentlessly pursue your objective and while we understand your motives, we also have to ensure that the school is dealt with fairly.

The Governing Body is due to meet on Thursday 16th September 2010; as promised we will come back to you with a date for us to meet again.

I can also confirm that the school is in the process of correlating the information you requested under the Freedom of Information Act. A charge of £30.00 will be made for postage and copying costs.

In the meantime if you have any further questions regarding the traffic signs, barriers or speed restrictions we request that you pursue these queries directly with Wiltshire Council.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Allen

Elsbeth Griffiths

Executive Headteacher

Chair of Governors

12th September 2010

Jo,

Before I respond to this, could you perhaps give me some professional advice ref this "Single Equality Scheme" and maybe other points raised in her email.

Regards

Paul

12th September 2010

Dear Mrs Allen & Mrs Griffiths,

I also came to our meeting at the gate in good faith. I know nothing about the Disability Discrimination Act (only what I have found the 'the Web') or the "Single Equality Scheme" (SES). This is the first time that the SES has been mentioned. It is the school and governors who told me that compliance with the DDA was the reason for closing the old gate and opening the new. I have pursued this matter so strongly because with my 35 years of local knowledge (and the

many accidents, some fatal, in the B3109 and Park Lane areas), my driving about 20,000 miles per year over the years 1988 - 2007 (thus appreciating what dangers roads and drivers can pose) and with our children having attended the old and new Box Highlands schools, I can see the dangers inherent in your new gate scheme. As I indicated in my last email, I may have misunderstood what you said at our meeting and I asked you to correct me if this was the case. By the way, because I was so concerned about the dangers of having vehicles park and parents and children alight etc at your new gate I contacted the police on Friday 3rd September to see if it was possible to stop this scheme going ahead before school-year start. I also contacted my solicitor on Thursday 9th September for advice with regard to action (possibly legal) with regard to stopping the use of the new gate - he suggested that, for the moment, I should seek the advice of the Health and Safety Executive.

I suppose I should wait until I have seen all the papers and minutes on the subject through my Fol request before I can proceed through correspondence. However, because I feel that the new entrance is **so dangerous**, I would still in the meantime like to meet as many of the interested parties as possible (the school, governors, Wilts CC, the police and even your solicitors if you like) at the new gate to illustrate my point of view. I should state that my interest in this is not to criticise the past performance and achievements of individuals, the school (which I am sure is "outstanding"), governors, Wilts CC etc but is to point out that I feel you (all) have made serious errors of judgement in this particular matter. I appear, in some ways, to be championing the cause of many parents and local people who, without exception, have told me that they believe that this is an ill-conceived enterprise.

Could I remind you that I will be in Westwood Road tomorrow morning collecting traffic statistics and then for the remainder of the week I will be in the Bradford Road collecting more stats and monitoring the traffic issues.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

13th September 2010

Dear Mr Turner,

Thank you for your email dated 12/9/10 sent at 18.22, the contents of which are noted.

Regards Elspeth Griffiths and Fiona Allen

14th September 2010

Dear Mrs Griffiths,

I have been re-reading your (yours as chair of the governors & Mrs Allen's) responses in order to reacquaint myself with your points and general position on this matter. I note that you have a governors' meeting coming up on Thursday, that you have proposed a meeting with me and that I responded with suitable dates which are the 20th or 21st or the morning of the 22nd. I realise that the governors may have full-time jobs which may prevent a working-hours meeting but you yourself expressed a preference for a morning meeting - could I propose a get-together at or near the new B3109 entrance, while teachers/parents vehicles are parking/leaving, on any of the above dates? Could I request that, if this is suitable, then arrangements be made to have representatives of Wilts County Council and the police present also?

I realise that you may have had many calls, letters or emails on this subject and I don't wish to push my points of view over the heads of others, but if possible, could I ask you to address the following points at your meeting on Thursday.

1. In your last email to me (from Fiona and yourself) you said that you were "saddened" by my email. You then went on to misrepresent or misreport what I had said. You said: 'As a point of note in our discussions you asked about a "DDA scheme for the gate" we were quite rightly confused as to what you were referring to. You have now in your email confirmed that you were referring to a Single Equality Scheme. I can confirm that the school does have such a scheme as part of its policies and procedures'. Why would you be confused about this? I asked about your DDA scheme and the addition of the new gate into this scheme. That seems perfectly clear to me. There is no mention in my email of the Single Equality Scheme. Why did you misrepresent me? I make this point in case the email 'chain' is discussed at your meeting on Thursday.
2. I am more than "saddened" that, whilst you (Elspeth), in your email of 9th September went some way towards answering the points made in my email of the same date, Mrs Allen's email responses, your combined response on 10th September and your report of (for example) Wilts CC saying "this issue not being within the Road Safety Department's remit" have side-stepped, clouded or avoided the real issue which is the safety of the children in your charge and incidentally their parents and road users. In your 9th September response you stated in answer to my questions about the overall safety of the location, its use in inclement weather and monitoring its use, that "this is a matter for Wilts County Council" (and the Road Safety Department say it isn't), "this can only be answered by a traffic officer" and "we are not qualified traffic officers". I am again more than "saddened", I am appalled that YOU (the school and the governors) instigated the process to relocate the entrance to this unsafe location and now you wash your hands of any responsibility for the safety of the children once outside the gate! It doesn't take a traffic officer to see that this entrance is in an unsafe location; it takes sensible people, particularly those in responsible positions, to simply take note of the real situation and take appropriate action (as I hope I am doing). I have monitored the situation on the B3109 at school-start time (08:30 - 09:10) every day since start-of-term, except yesterday (Monday) when I was collecting traffic stats outside your main entrance. There have been numerous 'situations', with vehicles

skidding, traffic coming to a halt because oncoming traffic was on the 'wrong' side of the road, people taking chances on proceeding when there were oncoming vehicles and so on. Today, a parked vehicle, facing the 'wrong way' with two other parked vehicles in front, pulled out directly in front of a Wincanton tanker causing it to stop at the last minute. Facing the wrong way of course meant that she couldn't see oncoming traffic until she had pulled out far enough to see around the parked vehicles in front. There will be an accident here sooner or later, and it could involve children for whom you are responsible. I have quoted the Wilts CC schools, education and learning homepage in one of my previous emails - it says: "We aim to help children and young people to be healthy and stay safe". In my opinion, the school and the governors have set aside this responsibility.

3. Why has no one from Wilts CC, the school or the governors been monitoring the situation each day (perhaps for the first week)? Is this the kind of attitude we should encourage in our children - to just make a decision and then ignore the effects? In my email of 10th September, I quoted from the Summary of Schools Statutory Responsibilities under Disability Discrimination Legislation - this said: "prepare and publish a disability equality scheme, involve disabled people in the development of the scheme, implement the scheme and report on it". I quote this as an (relevant) example only of how projects should be managed. How can you report on this scheme if its effects are not being monitored?
4. You mentioned that Mrs Allen would be meeting Wilts CC yesterday (Monday) to discuss the proposed barrier. What was the outcome? Is there a plan?
5. In your email of 9th September, you stated (with regard to cars belonging to members of staff being parked in the B3109 all day, causing an obstruction) that: "The cars are only parked there in the morning and following your comments staff now move their cars by 10 a.m.". A car was parked there at noon today (Tuesday).

You may be interested to know that not a single pedestrian parent/child used the new entrance today! Perhaps the heavy rain caused a dash for the car but the likely spray (which there was) from passing vehicles could also have been a factor.

I have addressed this email to you only. Please forward it to any other interested parties as you wish. I make no apologies for persisting in my efforts to have this gate closed even if at times I upset your appplecart.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

15th September 2010

Mrs Griffiths,

Mrs Allen and yourself have acknowledged my recent emails giving a precise date and time of receipt. Could you also please acknowledge receipt of this one?

Thanks

Paul Turner

15th September 2010

Jenny,

Regarding the point you made today about the B3109 not being appropriate for your daughter, have you made this point to the school? I ask because there is a Governors' meeting tomorrow night and they should be aware of as many views as possible about the new entrance. You should be able to see the governors' email address on my emails - it is govs@corsham-pri.wilts.sch.uk.

Paul

16th September 2010

Dear CPS, Governors, Wilts CC, Box Parish Council, Councillor Tonge & Wilts Police,

As most addressees will know, I have been monitoring the new Corsham Primary School, Broadwood entrance on the B3109 since school-start on 6th September.

Every day, there are 'incidents' of some sort but today there were two 'close shaves'. The first involved a parent coming 'up' (towards Fiveways) wishing to cross to the opposite side to park with vehicles coming up behind and a line of vehicles already committed to overtaking coming down (towards Corsham). The parent miscalculated the manoeuvre and blocked the road causing the downward line to come to a halt with horns blaring. The second involved a large Freeman Brothers agricultural vehicle with spraying equipment behind which was within perhaps 25 metres of the parked cars and 'almost' committed to overtaking (he was mostly in the oncoming lane) when a truck came around the corner - the driver of the 'tractor' had to make a split-second decision and just had enough time (being a 'tractor', he wasn't going too fast) to pull in behind the last parked car.

Previous addressees will know the issues I have already pointed out, but with my monitoring another issue is becoming clear. This is that the more vehicles that park at this point, the more the parked line creeps towards the corner. Vehicles coming down the road (towards Corsham) see the line of parked cars but cannot anticipate how long it is (or if there any gaps in it) so have to take a chance that there is (or will be) nothing coming in the opposite direction. However, having taken the chance, vehicles can and do come around the upcoming corner not

knowing until the last second that there are parked cars, and vehicles on the 'wrong side' directly in front of them. The more this entrance is used the worse the problem gets.

This cannot go on. Sooner or later there will be an accident here. I can't for the life of me think why no one in a position of responsibility has been monitoring this new gate to see how it is working in practice. Today I asked the gate monitor if he had seen/heard the incidents and he said he had. I then asked him if he was going to report them 'upwards' and he said he wasn't because it wasn't within his remit. This same attitude appears to pervade the school, the governors and Wilts County Council - light the blue touch paper and stand (well) back.

This gate is neither safe nor viable. As previous addressees will know, last Thursday not a single pedestrian used the gate; today just two did from a school roll of about one-hundred-and-seventy. But that is another issue, this gate must be closed immediately because it and its associated parking is a danger to children, their parents and other road users.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

16th September 2010

Hi (from Wilts Police)

For your information your e mail has been forwarded to local officers to try to assist and resolve this issue

Kind regards

CORSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT BROADWOOD SITE
AT 8.00 PM

Present:

- Mrs F Allen (Executive Headteacher)**
- Mrs E Griffiths (Vice Chair of Governors)**
- Mr K Golledge (Governor)**
- Mr J Stanley (Governor)**
- Mr P Turner**

Mr A Welch (Head of School)

In Attendance: Mrs A Biddall (Clerk to Governors)

Mr Turner was welcomed to the meeting and introduced to those present by Mrs Griffiths.

Mrs Griffiths suggested that Mr Turner explain the key issues surrounding his objection to the construction of a new gate at the Broadwood site.

Mr Turner said that the main issue was safety. He said that he had been monitoring the traffic on a daily basis for the past two weeks and had already witnessed a near accident. At the time of the near accident which had occurred during the morning he had asked the gate monitor if he was going to report the incident and was told that this was not in his remit. He also said that some cars were being parked on the Bradford Road facing the wrong way against the flow of the traffic. Mr Turner advised the meeting of the number of accidents that had happened in the area over the past few years.

Mrs Griffiths suggested that it was early days regarding drivers becoming aware of cars being parked along the Bradford Road and that there would be a change in driving habits in the future as a result.

Mrs Griffiths said that the Governors were in agreement with Mr Turner regarding the present 60 mph speed limit on the Bradford Road. Currently the Council are recommending a reduction to 50 mph but this was also felt to be too high.

Mr Turner suggested that it would have been better if a speed limit reduction had been implemented before the gate was put in place.

Mrs Griffiths replied that the gate was built following a school accessibility review which was ongoing; parents had also requested another access point because of the congestion at the school's main entrance. Whilst there had always been a gate from the Bradford Road it was quite a way from the school and had steps which made negotiation of buggies onto the school site difficult.

Mr Golledge pointed out the increase in school numbers and the wider catchment area of the school. This was the result of the construction of Katherine Park estate and the introduction of Snapdragons Nursery. The construction of the gate was the school's effort to reduce congestion on the Rudloe estate.

Mrs Allen explained that in an effort to speed things along the school were funding the barriers presently under construction and warning signs which hopefully would be installed shortly. The Highways Agency had been contacted but they had refused the school's request for zig zag lines and a pedestrian crossing. Mrs Allen said that they continued to lobby the Highways Agency for a reduction in the speed limit and had contacted the Corsham Area Board.

Discussion followed regarding possible changes to the current situation. Mr Stanley asked Mr Turner for suggestions regarding the way forward. Mr Turner replied that obviously he would prefer the new gate to be closed and added that he would like to see the old gate reinstated for use. Mrs Allen replied that this had security implications. Mr Turner would also like to see barriers along the full length of the path alongside the new gate. Mrs Griffiths replied that a request for this had already been turned down by the Highways Agency but that it would be put to the Agency again.

Finally, Mrs Allen said that despite Mr Turner's wishes the gate would remain. However, the Governors felt strongly that the speed limit on the road should be reduced, preferably to 30 mph, and suggested that Mr Turner also lobbied the Highways Agency and Corsham Area Board alongside the school. It was suggested that if Mr Turner was agreeable the data which he had been collecting recently could be used to put forward a strong case for a speed limit reduction.

Mr Golledge said that this would benefit the wider community as older children walked along the Bradford Road on their way to the secondary school.

Mrs Griffiths said that parents would be encouraged to park sensibly with the flow of traffic rather than against it.

Mrs Griffiths said that she felt that although there continued to be areas of disagreement between the school and Mr Turner the meeting had been very useful and hoped that there could be some measure of cooperation regarding the lowering of the speed limit on the Bradford Road. She thanked Mr Turner for attending the meeting.

Mr Turner thanked the meeting and said he would lobby for a speed reduction. He shared some photographs taken 26 years previously of the school, previously known as Box Highlands.

There being no further discussion the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

26th September 2010

Elsbeth,

Thanks for the 'minutes' of our meeting on 20th September. I am disappointed to see that there is no mention of the following points that I raised and which I feel are important:

1. Local residents, such as myself (I mentioned my 47 years local knowledge and extensive driving experience) and Mr Davies (a career police officer and traffic safety officer), and particularly parents had not been consulted about the new gate scheme.
2. The old gate had been in use perfectly safely since the school opened 26 years ago. Indeed, it was located in the safest possible place, away from the busy B3109.
3. The school was now requiring children (including special needs children who may have little concept of danger) to walk 100 metres down the B3109 whereas previously they

could enter the school safely. (Just a small addendum to this: our own children used the old entrance; we would never have allowed them to walk 100 metres along the B3109).

4. Much has been made of parents "complaining" that they found the steps at the old entrance difficult to negotiate with prams/pushchairs. I pointed out that after two-weeks monitoring, not a single parent with a pushchair or pram had approached the school from the west (or indeed from the east) along the B3109. Just one single parent had 'returned' along the B3109 with a pushchair and when approached regarding the 'difficulty' of the old entrance, she responded that the steps were "no problem". Whither the complainants?
5. The school has now brought the (dangerous) B3109 within its compass whereas previously it was safely separated.
6. My purely ad-hoc canvassing of opinion regarding the new gate had not found a single parent or local resident who agreed with the scheme.

Regards

Paul

CORSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT BROADWOOD SITE
AT 8.00 PM

Present:

- Mrs F Allen (Executive Headteacher)**
- Mrs E Griffiths (Vice Chair of Governors)**
- Mr K Golledge (Governor)**
- Mr J Stanley (Governor)**
- Mr P Turner**
- Mr A Welch (Head of School)**

In Attendance: Mrs A Biddall (Clerk to Governors)

Mr Turner was welcomed to the meeting and introduced to those present by Mrs Griffiths.

Mrs Griffiths suggested that Mr Turner explain the key issues surrounding his objection to the construction of a new gate at the Broadwood site.

Mr Turner explained that as a local resident with 47 years local knowledge and extensive driving experience) and in discussion with a colleague Mr Davies (a career police officer and traffic safety officer), was concerned that parents had not been consulted about the new gate scheme.

Mr Turner stated that the old gate had been in use perfectly safely since the school opened 26 years ago. It had been located in the safest possible place, away from the busy B3109. Mr Turner's own children used the old entrance; and he felt that he would never have allowed them to walk 100 metres along the B3109

Mr Turner explained that he felt that as a result of the re-located new gate the school was now requiring children (including special needs children who may have little concept of danger) to walk 100 metres down the B3109 whereas previously they could enter the school safely.

Mrs Allen explained that parents had complained that they found the steps at the old entrance difficult to negotiate with prams/pushchairs. Mr Turner pointed out that after two-weeks of his monitoring, not a single parent with a pushchair or pram had approached the school from the west (or indeed from the east) along the B3109. Just one single parent had 'returned' along the B3109 with a pushchair and when approached regarding the 'difficulty' of the old entrance, she responded that the steps were "no problem".

Mr Turner stated that in his view the school had now brought the (dangerous) B3109 within its compass whereas previously it was safely separated.

Over the period of time that Mr Turner had undertaken his ad-hoc canvassing of opinion regarding the new gate he had not found a single parent or local resident who agreed with the scheme.

Mr Turner said that the main issue was safety. He said that he had been monitoring the traffic on a daily basis for the past two weeks and had already witnessed a near accident. At the time of the near accident which had occurred during the morning he had asked the gate monitor if he was going to report the incident and was told that this was not in his remit. He also said that some cars were being parked on the Bradford Road facing the wrong way against the flow of the traffic. Mr Turner advised the meeting of the number of accidents that had happened in the area over the past few years.

Mrs Griffiths suggested that it was early days regarding drivers becoming aware of cars being parked along the Bradford Road and that there would be a change in driving habits in the future as a result.

Mrs Griffiths said that the Governors were in agreement with Mr Turner regarding the present 60 mph speed limit on the Bradford Road. Currently the Council are recommending a reduction to 50 mph but this was also felt to be too high.

Mr Turner suggested that it would have been better if a speed limit reduction had been implemented before the gate was put in place.

Mrs Griffiths replied that the gate was built following a school accessibility review which was ongoing; parents had also requested another access point because of the congestion at the school's main entrance. Whilst there had always been a gate from the Bradford Road it was quite a way from the school and had steps which made negotiation of buggies onto the school site difficult.

Mr Golledge pointed out the increase in school numbers and the wider catchment area of the school. This was the result of the construction of Katherine Park estate and the introduction of Snapdragons Nursery. The construction of the gate was the school's effort to reduce congestion on the Rudloe estate.

Mrs Allen explained that in an effort to speed things along the school were funding the barriers presently under construction and warning signs which hopefully would be installed shortly. The Highways Agency had been contacted but they had refused the school's request for zig zag lines and a pedestrian crossing. Mrs Allen said that they continued to lobby the Highways Agency for a reduction in the speed limit and had contacted the Corsham Area Board.

Discussion followed regarding possible changes to the current situation. Mr Stanley asked Mr Turner for suggestions regarding the way forward. Mr Turner replied that obviously he would prefer the new gate to be closed and added that he would like to see the old gate reinstated for use. Mrs Allen replied that this had security implications. Mr Turner would also like to see barriers along the full length of the path alongside the new gate. Mrs Griffiths replied that a request for this had already been turned down by the Highways Agency but that it would be put to the Agency again.

Finally, Mrs Allen said that despite Mr Turner's wishes the gate would remain. However, the Governors felt strongly that the speed limit on the road should be reduced, preferably to 30 mph, and suggested that Mr Turner also lobbied the Highways Agency and Corsham Area Board alongside the school. It was suggested that if Mr Turner was agreeable the data which he had been collecting recently could be used to put forward a strong case for a speed limit reduction.

Mr Golledge said that this would benefit the wider community as older children walked along the Bradford Road on their way to the secondary school.

Mrs Griffiths said that parents would be encouraged to park sensibly with the flow of traffic rather than against it.

Mrs Griffiths said that she felt that although there continued to be areas of disagreement between the school and Mr Turner the meeting had been very useful and hoped that there could be some measure of cooperation regarding the lowering of the speed limit on the Bradford Road. She thanked Mr Turner for attending the meeting.

Mr Turner thanked the meeting and said he would lobby for a speed reduction. He shared some photographs taken 26 years previously of the school, previously known as Box Highlands.

There being no further discussion the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

29th September 2010

Mandie, (Wilts Police)

Okay, thanks. I went to a special governors' meeting last Monday regarding the gate where I

made my case (interestingly though the 'minutes' bear no relation to meeting!). I am also due to receive all correspondence & meeting minutes on this subject through a freedom of information (Fol) request. The reason I am pursuing this so strongly is that the school & governors have just ploughed ahead with this scheme without consulting the parents or the local community. They have been completely blinkered in the planning and implementation and now appear to have no regard for the consequences. As you know, my main concern is safety - whereas previously, this dangerous road was separated from the school (the old entrances ensured that), the school & governors have now brought the B3109 right up to the school gate!

Regards
Paul

11th February 2011

Dear Elspeth, (Chair, school governors)

Trust all is well?

All quiet on the B3109 front? I have been away for long periods over the winter so haven't been keeping up with events.

I should say though, that during a period that I was around in November, I sent a 'comment' regarding planning application 10/04255/FUL (Installation of Cycle Parking Storage Facility) to the effect that the B3109/Skynet Drive/Park Lane road 'system' was not an appropriate network in which to encourage children to cycle.

I was prompted to send this dispatch after walking along the B3109 at 3:15 yesterday and seeing fourteen cars parked outside the new gate, four of which were parked 'the wrong way round', the drivers, on leaving, having to pull out and stretch across to the passenger side to see (and obstruct) any oncoming traffic. I mentioned this in September in emails and at our meeting, when I believe you said that parents would be contacted about this practice. If you did contact parents, then clearly no notice has been taken of your advice. Sooner or later this will result in an accident.

At the meeting, I also brought up the subject of the

inappropriateness of the B3109 footpath as a means of access for children, particularly those with certain disabilities, because of the proximity of such a fast, heavily-used road. I made the point that the old entrance, in use without any problems for 26 years, was far safer. The meeting did not disagree and Mrs Allen, I believe, said that the feasibility of re-opening the old entrance would be investigated. Has any progress been made in this respect?

Regards

Paul Turner

19th February 2011

Dear Paul,

All fine here busy as always, sounds like you have been busy too with your travels.

Many thanks for your email regarding the Bradford Road. As I think we indicated previously, the new school signs have now been fitted on the Bradford Road, Wiltshire has agreed to reduce the speed limit to 50 but we are not happy with this and are still trying to suggest to the highways department to lower the speed to 40. Linked to this is the plans the Corsham Area Board have to investigate the possibility of a zebra crossing near the bus stop which if installed would mean a further reduction in speed limit. Dave Roberts would be able to update you on progress of this

We have instructed and reminded parents on a number of occasions about parking contra flow and have recently issued more reminders in the newsletter. Last week we also issued a letter directly to parents who have parked in the wrong direction. We are aware of this issue and are doing what we can to remind and request parents to park safely; we do this regularly as an ongoing communication process.

The leadership and management committee have discussed the top gate and have undertaken a feasibility study as we promised and have received quotes for the works. The current estimate should we go ahead is approximately £5,500 which would include works and installation of the access, gate, lighting, camera and entry phone and automatic locking all of which as we previously indicated would be required for us to reopen the entrance securely. This expenditure has been put on the school maintenance programme but at present we do not have the funds for the remaining part of the financial year and currently are still not clear (given the publicised cuts) of the value of our budget from Wiltshire Council so we cannot commit to this cost just yet. When we know this information we will plan the maintenance and expenditure items accordingly.

Regards Elspeth

12th March 2012

Sirs,

I am, by chance, revisiting this subject after many months. I have forwarded below the original email I sent in September 2010 which was followed by many others and subsequent meetings.

This morning, as there was quite a mist about, I thought that there might be an opportunity to take some 'atmospheric' pictures in and around Rudloe.

I passed the school at about 8:30 or so and, of course, encountered the parking and traffic 'issues'. I took nineteen short videos of the traffic over the following ten or fifteen minutes. The videos are entitled 'Traffic on the B3109 at Rudloe' and have been posted on Youtube. Here are three, selected at random, for your scrutiny (all nineteen probably show slightly different issues):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WT6V-AEnOc4&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utAHS6sCwtw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzWfvaM7Sc8&feature=related>

The videos illustrate many of the problems of parking outside the new school gate vis:

- Parents, some with small children in arms, exiting (and entering) cars onto the busy road
- Cars crossing the road in order to park the 'wrong way round'
- Cars, whether parked with or against traffic having difficulty in returning to the main flow (causing vehicles to come to a halt)
- Vehicles having to brake hard on finding oncoming traffic in the wrong lane
- Drivers heading east, after making a decision to overtake the parked cars, having to stop again as oncoming vehicles have appeared out of the bend
- Similarly, drivers becoming tired of waiting and proceeding anyway despite oncoming traffic
- **Heavy goods vehicles** and **buses** having to stop unnecessarily

- Many 'speeding' cars having to brake hard (this was the Monday morning rush 'hour')

I guess that will do to be going on with. The videos though are instructive. Eighteen months on and all the original problems remain. I don't wish to be a Cassandra but I'm surprised that there has not been an accident here.

I still fail to see why life and limb should be put at risk when there is a perfectly good, safe entrance for vehicles on Rudloe Estate and a good, safe entrance for pedestrians (used for 26 years until closed off) on the B3109. There may be a few minor issues with these entrances but, I would say, nothing compared with the risks associated with new one.

Sincerely

Paul Turner

12th March 2012

Rob, (Springfield Residents Association)

For your information.

I was just talking with Howard and he reminded me that this subject comes up at your meetings.

We were pontificating (well I was anyway) about this situation. I wouldn't care so much if this harebrained scheme involved risks only to those foolish enough to park their cars here but to put other drivers and their own children at risk is breathtaking in its stupidity and quite indefensible.

The line of parked cars and queueing traffic were much longer this morning.

Regards

Paul T

12th March 2012

Dear 'C', (parent)

Interesting conversation this morning - thanks for the information, especially about the accident. I had thought I was fighting this 'battle' almost alone, however I see that some parents share my concerns. Actually, I have only just revisited the battle, completely by chance, as I indicate in my email below.

As it was much foggier today than Monday, I thought that no one would be foolish enough to park his or her car on the B3109 this morning! However, given one parent's (who I have known for about 25 years!) comment, it seems some are more concerned about a man with a camera than 30-tonne trucks spinning past their children.

I will post today's videos on Youtube and include the links in a follow-on email to the school, the governors, the council and the police (and yourself).

Regards

Paul Turner

15th March 2012

Sirs, (Fiona Allen (head@corsham-pri.wilts.sch.uk); Corsham Primary School Governors (govs@corsham-pri.wilts.sch.uk); elspeth mema (corsham school governors) (elspeth.mema@googlemail.com); elspeth griffiths (elspeth@mema.co.uk); Wilts CC Committee (committee@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC Education Director PA (angela.grodzicka@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC school H&S (schoolhealthandsafety@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC road safety (roadsafetyeducation@wiltshire.gov.uk); Dave Roberts Wilts Community Area Manager (dave.roberts@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC area board north (areaboardsnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC Development Management (developmentmanagementnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk); Councillor Richard Tonge (richard.tonge@wiltshire.gov.uk); Box Parish Council (mailbox@boxparish.org.uk); force.servicedesk@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

Having now had my interest reawakened, and seeing that the fog today (15th March) was much heavier than that on Monday, I thought I would take a look at the traffic situation on the B3109 outside the new school gate.

I thought that no sensible parent could possibly park on the B3109 on such a day. But, of course, I was wrong. I have again posted (four) videos on Youtube, the first, for obvious reasons, with 'unlisted' access (an unlisted video will not appear in any of YouTube's public spaces such as search results, your channel, or the Browse page so that only those with the following link may view it):

http://www.youtube.com/my_videos_edit?ns=1&video_id=8O-PUqibrLw

So we start here (above) with a general view of the fog around the school entrance. However, this video highlights another issue. You will see that I am

standing by the old pedestrian entrance which was closed (after 26 years use) when the new gate was opened. The argument for closing this gate was that it could not be seen from the school and that parents with buggies/prams found it hard to negotiate (this second argument, I believe, I proved was fallacious both through my emails and my 'presentation' to the governors back in 2010). So to the first argument - that the entrance can't be seen from the school - I notice that, on Monday and again today, before the arrival of the parents' cars, children were walking into the new entrance with no school staff presence (and presumably no one 'watching' from the school). The argument for closing the old gate is invalidated if there is no one to 'see' the entrance or the children entering (and leaving). In the video, the young girl has to run the (100 metre or so) gauntlet of the B3109 and its traffic instead of using the safe, old entrance which was above road-level and separated from the road by a verge and a barrier.

The subsequent videos (with a bit commentary/chat this time) show the traffic chaos outside the school. This one shows the first car arriving (and me voicing my disbelief):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEeydia7vI0>

The next shows a car parking (and leaving luckily) just before a damned-great premix cement lorry trundles through:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRfCxhcHqDc>

The last shows the absolute chaos that ensues when there are many parked cars. The bus, heading east, cannot see if it is safe to proceed or not. It eventually does proceed, but has to stop again in a 'gap' as more vehicles come around the bend from Corsham. The young lady I chat to appears to think that the problem lies with the "speed limit" (I agree that there should be a lower speed limit than the present 'unrestricted' but that would make little difference to the chaos) and the "useless, stupid drivers"; she then goes on to say "if you think that this is bad, you should see Shaw School - they should open a field up there". This last statement thus invalidates her argument - you may hear me state that Rudloe already has a ready-made 'field' for safe parking - Rudloe Estate!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6zppsvzumg>

After chatting with the young lady in the last video, I had a long conversation with two more parents. We discussed the ongoing 'issues' - they were

particularly concerned with parents parking the 'wrong way around' (i.e. coming from the Corsham direction and crossing lanes to park against the oncoming, eastbound traffic). Interestingly, they said that there had already been an accident here caused (of course) by the foolish parking in the first place but precisely (their worry) by a lady, having parked the wrong way around, trying to pull out into the traffic flow. She was hit by an oncoming BMW apparently. Have there been any other accidents (perhaps the police can answer this?)? We also discussed the traffic problems on Rudloe Estate. However, I monitored the Rudloe Estate traffic for a week back in September 2010 and there were no great problems - no 30-tonne trucks, premix cement lorries, buses, agricultural vehicles etc - just a few dozen cars proceeding slowly through the estate. These parents did mention the parking issues at the school but I stated, as I have previously, that the large Rudloe Club car park was and is available.

So - chaos, accident(s), putting other road users and, most importantly, the children at risk - and for what?

Sincerely

Paul Turner

15th March 2012

Rob,

Cheers guv'. I could, of course, have taken my 'rant' a little bit further but I didn't want to go 'over the top' in the emails. I find it hard to fathom that these parents could be so (to use the word used by the parent in the last video) "stupid" as to park here in the fog.

I believe I could write a book about this issue and how it demonstrates the forces at work here:

- Why would the school undertake this harebrained project in the first place? (see my possible answer below)
- Why has no one in a position of authority put his or her head above the parapet to question the project and the outcome (the chaos)?
- Why is no one responding to the issue (not one addressee has responded meaningfully)?

- Why do some parents continue to use this entrance when it is clearly unsafe? (see my answer below)

If we, as the lady in the video did, compare the Rudloe situation to that at Shaw, there was, and presumably still is, a campaign to reduce the traffic 'chaos' at Shaw school. The 'chaos' is caused by parents dropping off their charges on the B3353 (Corsham Road) outside the school. You will see in the Wiltshire Times article below, from 2008, that many parties, including the MP, were involved in trying to resolve the situation:

http://www.wiltshiretimes.co.uk/news/2006696.talks_planned_over_school_traffic_fears/

So what does Corsham School do? The school and its governors perversely create a chaotic situation outside the Rudloe site when at least one other Wiltshire school is trying to resolve their traffic issues! Unbelievable!

Why would Corsham School do it? There are so many absurdities (the traffic situation, the dangers, the experiences of other schools, the exposure of their children to unnecessary danger by closing off a safe pedestrian gate, the opening of a new gate directly on a busy road etc) with the new gate project that it is difficult to comprehend why they would embark on it in the first place. A possible (plausible?) reason that I have come up with is marketing and advertising. You will have noticed that a large banner went up on the fence adjacent to the new gate from the moment that the gate came into use. It said "An Outstanding School" (Ofsted's evaluation). Where else could the school put such a banner other than outside a school entrance where the public can see, day after day, the children entering the school (and be 'forced' to see it through being held up by the parents' cars parked there). I believe (I could well be wrong of course) that this was their rationale and if this was (and is) the case then it is bloody outrageous! I have taken dozens of pictures of the B3109 at this location over the winter, spring, summer and autumn since the gate was opened and the banner is in evidence in all of them. If I am anywhere near correct in my supposition here, then the governors (including the executive head) should be 'put on trial' for consciously endangering the pupils in their charge!

With regard to the parents who park here, I believe that their behavior is selfish and completely lacks any consideration for others (road users etc). How could a parent possibly consider that parking on this busy road, particularly in fog, is a reasonable action when there is a perfectly safe alternative just a short distance away? This lack of consideration must also, by consequence, be a

accusation levelled at the school (governors, head etc). What an example for the children!

I rest my case m'lud

Regards

Paul

20th March 2012

Hi Paul

Thank you for your e-mail dated 15th March, apologies for the delay but I have been on leave.

Unfortunately due to our restricted Computer systems we cannot look at You Tube footage. Having said that we have continued to monitor the parking situation outside the school but have so far found that with care - cars can pass each other.

I have passed your information onto Kristian at Highways as the roads are Highways jurisdiction and really the only way you're going to be moving forward with this is a long-term stand i.e. Presenting your case to the Parish Council to have double yellow lines in place to stop people parking there on a permanent basis and they in turn will take things to Highways, again the same for reducing the speed limit. Before all this happens you will have to have the School on board to approve moving forward with the changes.

If you wish to set-up a meeting between yourself, the School and Highways I am more than happy to attend or you can hold it here at Corsham Station in our Conference Room. I am happy to help where I can but I must emphasise that the roads (in the context we are talking) are not a Police matter and I must be careful not to overstep the mark but offer support and assistance where I can.

I have to hot-foot it to a meeting in a mo but I will sit down again later and re-read your e-mail to see if there is anything further I can pull out and deal with on your behalf.

Kind Regards

Mandie (Wilts Police)

21st March 2012

Mandie,

Thanks for the response. You are the only addressee who has responded. I get the impression that all others wish to keep their heads down which is curious given the (what I believe to be) importance of my observations.

You can view the Youtube footage by just forwarding the email to your own private email. You will see from the footage that it is **possible** for cars to pass each other BUT that is not really the issue. The issues are highlighted in the last of the Youtube links.

I have already had a meeting with the school governors when the new gate opened in September 2010. I was effectively stonewalled. It seemed then and seems now that a decision had been taken and no opposition would be countenanced. I have strong opinions as to why the decision to open a new gate and close the old (pedestrian) gate was taken which I have voiced in private emails to other 'campaigners'. It is clear (to me) that the decision had nothing to do with the school's primary objective, which is to keep the children in their charge safe. Why would the school open a new gate which opens directly onto a busy road with parents and children having to share space with speeding cars, 30-tonne trucks, buses, agricultural vehicles etc when there is a perfectly safe alternative (which had been used for twenty-six years and still is used by sensible parents)? Shaw School has been trying to solve a traffic situation for years and would give its eye teeth for a safe estate with ample parking. And what does Corsham school do? Create the very situation that Shaw has been trying to solve!

As I indicated above, apart from the school and its governors whose idea this was in the first place and who 'stonewall', it is instructive that none of the other addressees which include the local County Council Area Board, the head of County education, the Council school health and safety organisation, the Council road safety organisation, the Council cabinet member for highways and transport, the County development/planning organisation and Box Parish Council has bothered to respond to my concerns.

When the balloon does go up, which indeed it will sooner or later (there has already been one accident that I have been made aware of and numerous 'near misses') it will be interesting to observe the games played by those in authority trying to pass the buck. In these circumstances, if it were down to me, I would put the lot of them on trial for abrogation of responsibility and its consequences.

Sincerely

Paul Turner

22nd May 2012

Dear Dick, (Tonge, Box Parish Council)

We have two residents attend our Highways Committee meeting last night representing the Springfield and Clift Close Residents' Association. They were raising concerns about the B3109 and the number of cars that are parking on the bend to drop off children for the school. They counted fifteen cars at the same time last week.

Can you look into this on our behalf and see if something can be done. Can this be raised as an issue with the CATG?

I have written to the Head Teacher and had a reply saying that she would continue to raise awareness with the parents but it doesnt seem to be working.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret (Rousell, Box Parish Council)

22nd May 2012

(Dick Tonge's response)

This has been raised as an issue sheet and there have been numerous discussions with the school.

The plan is to allow parents to use the car park by the Rudloe Centre.

Regrettably whatever we do parents still take risks rather than drive a couple of hundred yards more.

Regards,

Dick

31st May 2012

Rob, (Springfield Residents Association)

We both know that this is just nonsense. An indication of the worthlessness of councils, parish or otherwise.

"The plan is ..." - what a load of tosh - Rudloe Community Centre offered their car park to the school back in 2009/10 when all this new gate baloney first surfaced - I spoke to Cathy McCarron (the Centre manager) in September 2010 and included the information about the availability of the car park in all relevant emails sent to Wilts CC, Box Parish Council, the police etc.

And as for the police sorry Rob, but they are as worthless as the rest! Our local community officer was actually the only addressee to respond to my emails of earlier this year but, as you know, stated that she could not see the video footage (conveniently for the police so as to preclude actually doing anything) because the police computers would not allow it! Sloping shoulders or what! My grandson, aged 5, could figure out how to see the footage. "Patrol the road" - why? when? perhaps to add to the chaos?

Paul

9th January 2013

Sirs, (Fiona Allen (head@corsham-pri.wilts.sch.uk); Corsham Primary School Governors (govs@corsham-pri.wilts.sch.uk); elspeth mema (corsham school governors) (elspeth.mema@googlemail.com); elspeth griffiths (elspeth@mema.co.uk); Wilts CC Committee (committee@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC Education Director PA (angela.grodzicka@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC school H&S (schoolhealthandsafety@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC road safety (roadsafetyeducation@wiltshire.gov.uk); Dave Roberts Wilts Community Area Manager (dave.roberts@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC area board north (areaboardsnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk); Wilts CC Development Management (developmentmanagementnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk); Councillor Richard Tonge (richard.tonge@wiltshire.gov.uk); Box Parish Council (mailbox@boxparish.org.uk); force.servicedesk@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

Again, by chance, I am revisiting the issue of Corsham School, Broadwood Site and its 'new' entrance on the B3109.

Walking down the B3109 from Rudloe to Corsham today at around 3pm, I was passed by quite a number of M. J. Church 32 tonne (loaded) tipper trucks, perhaps six in all. These vehicles are quite a common sight on the B3109 running, I suppose, between sites north and west of Corsham and quarries and dumping sites to the south-west (Whatley Quarry for example). However, today, there were, what appeared to be, an exceptional number of these trucks.

Interestingly, the 'source' of the trucks and their loads was the site of the Corsham Community Campus (CCC) in Beechfield Road. The work of clearing this site of spoil has just started; the

spoil is, as indicated above, being moved to a dumping ground somewhere in the south-west, using the B3109. Twenty-three 32 tonne trucks used this route today, 8th January 2013, so that's twenty-three empty trucks running north and east with those same trucks, loaded, running south and west. There will be another twenty-three trucks tomorrow, Wednesday (forty-six journeys in all), and perhaps half that number on Thursday.

Towards the end of next week (commencing Monday 14th January), groundwork will start for the CCC buildings. The presumption is that tonnes of aggregate and concrete will be moving along the B3109 in 32-tonne trucks (perhaps bigger) and pre-mix lorries. Perhaps the construction company, Midas, will be able to confirm this presumption (I have not been able to find an email address for Midas but perhaps one of the addressees of this email can ascertain this information).

The site staff in Beechfield Road were/are aware that a new term has just started at Corsham School, so the heavy traffic in and out of the site was and will be halted for the duration of school start and end periods (around 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.). So our noble builders, using basic common sense, can see that 32-tonne trucks and school traffic (vehicular and pedestrian) do not mix. These same 32-tonne trucks will be thundering past the 'new' entrance to Corsham Primary School, Broadwood Site where the deliberate decision was taken to share road space between vehicles dropping off/picking up their charges and the heavy traffic using the B3109, thus placing children at risk. The 'heavy traffic' includes buses (231, 232, X31, Corsham Town), heavy agricultural tractors (Freeman's), 'motorway maintenance' trucks (which are quite common), pre-mix cement lorries (also fairly common), very large agricultural feed vehicles (Charles Jackson and Co) and so on. Over the coming weeks, the plethora of M.J. Church and other trucks servicing the CCC site will be added to this mix.

Once again, I'm afraid, I have to pen my incredulity that the authorities, including the executive head of the school, the governors, Wilts CC (Health and Safety, Road Safety, Development Management, Area Board and so on), the Parish Council and the police and, indeed, the parents involved have instigated, presided over, acquiesced to or simply become users of this delinquent scheme.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

22nd January 2013

Dear Mr Turner,

I refer to your email dated 9th January 2013.

Planning permission is not required to create a pedestrian access at the location therefore no action can be taken regarding this matter in planning terms. The road to which you refer is a classified road therefore the use of it by vehicles lawfully driving along it is not a planning matter in the circumstances.

I note that you have copied your email to Wiltshire Police who will no doubt monitor the use of the road if they consider it is a danger to road users due to accidents, speeding etc. and will, if necessary, consult with Wiltshire Council Highways Department if, in their opinion, improvements need to be made to make the road safer for all road users including the adoption of highway restrictions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

Allan Brown

Planning Enforcement Officer

Development Management (North)

Wiltshire Council

16th June 2013

All,

Once more I am driven to address the issue of the new, B3109 entrance to Corsham School Broadwood Site (now renamed Corsham Woodland School).

I note that my last email in January did not elicit any responses apart from a "Nothing to do with us gov" from the Wilts CC Development Management (North). This is somewhat illuminating. One wonders about the naissance of this 'fortress mentality' where council/school decisions, no matter how derelict, cannot be the subject of reasonable response, discussion or reconsideration.

I return to the subject from an oblique angle. At the 'Rudloe Renaissance' presentation by Green Square, I was told that site 799 (across the B3109 from the school), in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), is in the hands of a developer. In making some enquiries with Wilts CC, I came across the B3109 Pedestrian Crossing Assessment Report of May

2011 which had a section entitled 'Collision Data' containing the following:

'An investigation of the Police Collision Database shows that there has been one recorded personal injury collision in the latest three year period.' This occurred approximately 160m east of the junction with Westwood road in March 2010 and involved a single vehicle travelling in a south westerly direction failing to negotiate a slight bend and colliding with a tree.'

In my previous emails I brought attention to the many accidents that have occurred on this road over the years. Since the date of the above report, there have been a number of (probably unreported) accidents on the B3109 close to the school. Two have involved vehicles colliding with trees; one, in November 2011, involved an articulated lorry and the other, in just the past few weeks, a fibreglass-fronted vehicle. You may see the results of both accidents in the attached photos; the tree knocked into the road was just some 50 metres south-west of the school entrance and the remains of the fibreglass vehicle with damaged tree are just east of the entrance to Rudloe Estate, so about 200 metres from the school entrance. In addition, at least one accident (so I am told by a parent) has occurred outside the school involving a parent's car. Also, there have been a number of 'near misses', one involving a neighbour here in Springfield Close. And all these are just incidents that I am aware of; there are undoubtedly others.

The accidents involving vehicles hitting trees are instructive. These could just as easily have involved children. Rudloe Estate and the original entrance to Box Highlands/Corsham School Broadwood Site/Corsham Woodland School has seen no such accidents in the 29 years since the opening of the school. The reason, of course, is that Rudloe Estate is a safe, relatively low-speed environment whereas the B3109 is a relatively high-speed (and unsafe) environment.

A recent, short communication from the school, in response to an email regarding the trimming of trees within the newly sequestered woodland adjacent to the school, stated, "some bows (sic) were at risk of falling into the road". This response indicates

completely misplaced priorities. From UK statistics, a person is roughly 2,500 times more likely to be killed or injured in a road accident than be killed by a falling tree or branch. The chances of being killed by a falling tree or bough are less than those of being killed by a lightning strike. The likelihood of being killed or injured in a road accident is evident from the accidents occurring in just the short stretch of the B3109 outside the school. Vehicles are hitting trees not the other way around!

I find it incredible that the advertising/marketing exercises of the new school entrance and re-branding of the school have taken precedence (and been allowed to take precedence by the authorities involved) over the safety of children. The new school entrance should be closed, the old pedestrian entrance on the B3109 reopened with vehicular access returning to the main school entrance.

Yours sincerely

Paul Turner

6th August 2013

From: karen.bell@wiltshire.gov.uk

To: wirepuller@hotmail.com

CC: Carol.Coward@wiltshire.gov.uk

Subject: FW: Corsham Woodland School B3109 Entrance

Date: Tue, 6 Aug 2013 14:11:14 +0000

Dear Mr Turner,

My apologies for the length of time it has taken to come back to you on this matter. Councillor John Thomson would like to arrange a visit to the school with yourself, a Highways officer and the Head of the school. Unfortunately the school have yet to come back to me with some date options for this meeting and have now broken up for the summer holidays. I will therefore diarise this for the first week of September and will chase them for a meeting date. I shall be in touch with you again shortly thereafter to discuss these.

I trust you find this to be in order but should you have any further queries regarding this matter, please do let me know.

Kind regards,

Karen Bell

PA to the Cabinet

Law and Governance

Wiltshire Council | County Hall | Trowbridge | Wiltshire | BA14 8JN

7th August 2013

From: Paul Turner [mailto:wirepuller@hotmail.com]

Sent: 07 August 2013 11:41

To: Bell, Karen

Cc: Esther; rob davies; stephwood2502@gmail.com; Sue Canham; Coward, Carol; Margaret Duxbury; Jenny across the road; Ann Keat; Tom Taylor-White; Pat Chater; Ann Burden; Liz Roger; Barbara Nash; Dave Gale; Juliet Powell (Rudloe Dev); David Hughes; david_wright@dsl.pipex.com

Subject: RE: Corsham Woodland School B3109 Entrance

Karen,

Having received your response, I guess that it would be discourteous of me to ask why it has taken Wilts County Council three years to respond to my emails and finally arrange a meeting? (My first email on the subject was sent on 2nd September 2010; the whole email saga from then up to my 16 June 2013 email can be found through a link at the foot of 'News', 'Rudloe' page of the Rudloe website here: <http://www.rudloescene.co.uk/news-1/rudloe/>).

With regard to the proposed meeting, we will be (touch wood) in the south of France for a 7th September rugby match, however we have not arranged any travel or accommodation yet - we usually (this is an annual event) 'play it by ear' and take a week or so tootling around Languedoc and/or Provence. So, the bottom line is that I can/will arrange the flight/accommodation around the date that you settle on for the meeting as long as we are in Languedoc on 7th September. Possible flights for us at present are: out on 4 Sept, back on 11 Sept but there are other dates.

I have copied this to other residents who have taken a keen interest in this issue over the years as well as to other local campaigners on planning issues and Carol Coward.

Regards

Paul Turner

8th August 2013

From: karen.bell@wiltshire.gov.uk

To: wirepuller@hotmail.com

CC: Carol.Coward@wiltshire.gov.uk

Subject: RE: Corsham Woodland School B3109 Entrance

Date: Fri, 9 Aug 2013 13:36:03 +0000

Dear Mr Turner,

Given that the school term only commences on 2nd/3rd September and this only leaves a very small window of opportunity before your holiday in which to organise this meeting, I would suggest that we look for a date when you return post 11th September.

I trust you find this to be in order and I look forward to speaking with you at the beginning of September.

Kind regards,

Karen Bell

PA to the Cabinet

Law and Governance

20th August 2013

From **Paul Turner** (wirepuller@hotmail.com)

:

Sent: 20 August 2013 11:19:46

To: Bell, Karen (karen.bell@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Karen,

Apologies for the delay in responding; we've been in Ireland.

I will contact you on our return (touch wood) from France.

Regards

Paul Turner

From: wirepuller@hotmail.com
To: julie.bielby@greensquaregroup.com
Subject: Rudloe Community Centre and its parking
Date: Wed, 18 Sep 2013 15:52:28 +0000

Julie,

You may have seen/heard that the Rudloe Community Centre bar will close at the end of September - see <http://www.rudloescene.co.uk/news-1/rudloe/>.

However, this is not why I write this email! Not sure if this is your area, but the story of the 'Woodland' school and its 'new' entrance on the Bradford Road and associated parking problems is the issue here. With the new school year commencing, the parking problems continue. In fact, Wilts County Council have been around to have a look at the entrance and associated parking.

What I fail to understand in all this is that there is a 32-space (or thereabouts) car park at the Community Centre which could easily accommodate all the cars that park in the Bradford Road. Access and exit to/from this car park would be made easier if the small kerb barrier was removed and replaced with a 'sleeping policeman' (with perhaps another at the other side of the Centre). Just three or so parents/cars use the car park at present.

Any 'perceived' problems with congestion around Broadwood Avenue and at the school main entrance would be obviated by the use of the car park, as the entrance could be designated as that opposite Bankwaters Road and the exit on the other side in Leylands Road thus creating a circuit without interfering with traffic (teachers etc) using the school main entrance or other traffic travelling further up the estate.

Other schools (e.g. Shaw, St Patrick's, even Corsham Primary at Pound Pill) would give their eye teeth for such a car park to reduce their traffic problems but the Community Centre car park lies effectively unused.

There are certainly no practical issues with adopting this solution. Are the problems political, inter-organizational or what?

Sincerely
Paul

19th September 2013

From: **Paul Turner** (wirepuller@hotmail.com) Sent: 19 September 2013
10:12:08 To: john.thomson@wiltshire.gov.uk (john.thomson@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor Thomson,

Greetings from darkest Rudloe.

Thanks for the meeting yesterday. Apologies, I cannot recall the name of the other gentleman at the meeting (I realise I asked him to repeat it but still didn't catch it) nor can I find his details on the Wilts CC website. I wonder if you could forward this email on to him.

I mentioned the 'Rudloe' website yesterday. The link to 'Rudloe', 'News' is below and the link for the three-year email chain regarding the 'new' school gate can be found there - at the foot of the page:

<http://www.rudloescene.co.uk/news-1/rudloe/>

I don't think I did myself justice in explaining the background to my campaign. Also, I believe at one stage you said there had been no accidents on this road (I may have misheard - please correct me if I am wrong). Over the years, there have been numerous fatal accidents which I detail in the paragraph below. Apart from the fatal accidents, the only (non-fatal) accident in the police database is or was where a car with an elderly couple from Frome aboard failed to negotiate the bend below Rudloe Estate and crashed into a tree. This was about 200 metres east of the new school entrance (very close to the 'David Plummer' accident - see below). There have been many other non-fatal accidents very close to the new school entrance (NSE): a Rudloe resident was hit by a car about 150 metres west of the NSE and hospitalised with broken bones; my brother-in-law lost control of his car and crashed into the trees just below the NSE - he was uninjured but the car was a write-off. My other brother-in-law (!) was involved in a collision at the B3109/A365 junction when the occupants of the 'other' car (who were Rudloe residents) had to be cut from the car. The after-effects of just two relatively recent vehicle/tree collisions on the B3109 within 100/200 metres of the school entrance were detailed (with photos) in my June 2013 email (to all and sundry).

In July 2009, Leanne Harris (the mother of a Corsham Primary pupil) was killed at the B3109/A4 junction. David Plummer, a Rudloe resident, was killed in August 2007 on the B3109 some 200 metres east of the NSE (if you look carefully, you may see a small 'shrine' at the spot). In a horrific accident, witnessed by a neighbour, a horse and rider were killed on the B3109 at Rudloe Fiveways some 300 metres west of the NSE. Another Rudloe resident, Janet Slocombe, was killed on the B3109 at Thorney pits about 800 metres west of the NSE. Some years ago Mrs Kelly, a Rudloe resident, was killed whilst cycling at the Skynet Drive/Park Lane junction some 200 metres south of the NSE. Again some years ago, two local lads, Timmy Gibbons and Dave Hunt, were killed on Park Lane close to what is now the entrance to Katherine Park. And some years before that, a schoolchild was killed in Park Lane close to St Patrick's Church. I relate Park Lane accidents here as the Bradford Road and Park Lane are similar and parallel Corsham-Rudloe/Hawthorn routes.

My point in detailing all this is that there has never (touch wood) been an accident on Rudloe Estate where the main school entrance is located (and has been located for the past 29 years) as this is a relatively safe, low-speed environment. Yet the school has chosen to place its pupils and parents (and other road users) at risk by placing them into a relatively unsafe, heavily used, high-speed environment. They have abrogated their primary duty, that of keeping safe the pupils in their charge.

Sincerely

Paul Turner

From: Kirsty.Powell@greensquaregroup.com
To: wirepuller@hotmail.com
CC: Phil.Bowley@greensquaregroup.com; Julie.Bielby@greensquaregroup.com;
Karen.Williams@greensquaregroup.com; Kirsty.Powell@greensquaregroup.com
Date: Tue, 24 Sep 2013 14:31:00 +0100
Subject: RE: Rudloe Community Centre and its parking

Hi Paul

Thank you for your email apologies for the delay in responding.

As you note in your email there is and has been for sometime a viability issue with the community centre and Wiltshire Council who own and lease the building are considering their options.

Whilst this review is on-going I am unable to say whether they will make any changes to the parking area around the centre. They are aware of parking difficulties in the area I understand that Joanne Heal Network Manager in Highways at Wiltshire Council based in Trowbridge was looking at this.

Thanks Kirsty

Kirsty Powell | Development & New Business Manager, GreenSquare Group
tel: 01793 602837, mob: 07917050679 | kirsty.powell@greensquaregroup.com | Barbury House, Swindon SN5 7HB

From: wirepuller@hotmail.com
To: joanne.heal@wiltshire.gov.uk
Subject: FW: Rudloe Community Centre and its parking
Date: Tue, 24 Sep 2013 15:41:51 +0000

Joanne,

I had a meeting at County Hall last week with Councillor Thomson and another gentleman, whose name I have forgotten, on the subject of the parking, outside the school, on the B3109 at Rudloe.

Parking at Rudloe Community Centre came up at the meeting and, I believe, the 'other gentleman' said that this was an issue for GreenSquare, however GreenSquare, in the email chain below, has just mentioned your name in this context.

Can you assist with this issue?

Sincerely

Paul Turner

From **Paul Turner** (wirepuller@hotmail.com)

m:

Sent 12 October 2013 09:15:11

:

To: John Thompson Wilts CC (john.thomson@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Cc: parvis.khansari@wiltshire.gov.uk
(parvis.khansari@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Thomson and Mr Khansari,

Having met with Simon Smith of the Wilts CC planning department this week, I have at last determined Parvis's name!

Just to follow-up my email of 19th September below, in talking with locals of accidents on the B3109, I have been reminded of two that occurred at the Toghill Crescent bus stop some years ago. The bus stop is, of course, just 100 metres or so from the 'new' school entrance.

Lorraine Dancey suffered a fractured skull and other injuries and Maureen Ashley, who was pregnant, suffered life-changing injuries. These accidents happened after the ladies concerned had alighted from the bus.

I give these further examples to illustrate the difference, in terms of danger, between the B3109 Bradford Road and the Rudloe Estate roads.

Sincerely

Paul Turner

From **Thomson, John** (John.Thomson@wiltshire.gov.uk) This sender is in

m: your [contact list](#).

Sent 13 October 2013 09:59:00

:

To: Paul Turner (wirepuller@hotmail.com)

Dear Mr Turner

Thank you for your email and listing the collisions in the area. As you may be aware the Council has access to Police's record of road traffic accidents and continuously monitors the data to identify locations where collisions occur. We use this information to develop road safety schemes and have a programme of improvements that contributes to the reduction of casualties on Wiltshire's roads.

With regard to this location, I have instructed officers to implement a parking ban. This could take up to several months to organise, but we hope that the removal of parking will improve safety along this stretch of the road.

Regards

John

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways and Broadband Wiltshire Council
Division Sherston
East Lodge
Pinkney, Sherston
Malmesbury
Wiltshire SN16 0NZ

Home Tel 01666 840785

PA Tel 01225 718577

Fax: 01225 713089

Email john.thomson@wiltshire.gov.uk

Fro **Paul Turner** (wirepuller@hotmail.com)

m:

Sent 13 October 2013 10:37:09

:

To: John Thompson Wilts CC
(john.thomson@wiltshire.gov.uk)

John,

Thanks for the response and apologies for contributing to your weekend workload.

I suppose that Wilts CC is aware of the changes proposed to this stretch of road by Hannick Homes? These can be seen amongst their exhibition material (30 September), for the Bradford Road development site, attached to this email.

On the 'Our Proposal' page is the following statement: "The residential part of our proposals will be accessed off Bradford Road. This access will incorporate a ghost island right turn lane on Bradford Road." In my humble opinion, this would mean removal of all the trees to the east of the Bradford Road (opposite the school) enabling a, perhaps, 3-metre widening of the road to allow for the "right turn lane" (at the location of your proposed double-yellow lines).

Also on the 'Our Proposal' page a "Visibility Splay" is shown to the west of the Bradford Road/Skynet Drive junction along with the text "Land to be made available to improve junction safety". I have responded to Hannick Homes on this point as follows: "Making land available to improve the Bradford Road/Skynet Drive junction, does not address the junction problem. It would, perhaps, enable (safer) right turns to be made from Skynet Drive (prohibited at present) but (having stood at the Toghill Crescent bus stop and studied this on many occasions), the problem for people turning left from Skynet Drive is the lack of visibility in the Corsham direction. So, to do a 'proper job', land would have to be purchased to the east of Skynet Drive adjacent to Bradford Road, the road widened and the bus stop moved."

Trust this information, if you were not already aware of it, may help with your planning for this stretch of the Bradford Road.

Regards

Paul

From: Joanne Heal Wilts CC
14/10/2013

To: Paul Turner
Cc: Khansari, Parvis, Mundy, Jamie

Dear Mr Turner

My sincere apologies, I seem to have missed your original email.

Parvis Khansari is my Service Director and he has briefed me on meeting you had recently with himself and Cllr John Thomson. My team deal with parking and waiting restrictions and following your meeting we are working on drawing up a scheme to implement double yellow lines along this section of the road. The lines will require a Traffic Regulation Order to enable enforcement and we have to follow a statutory process which can take up to 6 months. We are progressing this one as

quickly as possible and hope to be in a position to advertise the scheme for public consultation during late November/ early December.

Kind regards

Joanne

From: Paul Turner
14/10/2013
To: Joanne Heal Wilts CC
Cc: Parvis Khansari, Jamie.Mundy@wiltshire.gov.uk

Joanne,

Thanks for the prompt response.

I appreciate what you say about the yellow lines etc but my question in the emails below is on another, but related, subject. It relates to the status/configuration of the car park at Rudloe Community Centre as detailed in my email of 18th September. Who is responsible for this car park and any changes that need to be made to it?

Regards

Paul

Fro **Heal,**
m: **Joanne** (joanne.heal@wiltshire.gov.uk)
Sent 14 October 2013 15:05:28
:
To: Paul Turner (wirepuller@hotmail.com)

Dear Mr Turner

There is a large amount of history to the proposals to remove the high kerb in the car park involving the Council, the school and the lease holders of the car park. It has been decided that this proposal will now not be pursued due to that fact that any changes we put in place now will need to be removed if the final scheme for the community centre project does not accommodate them, therefore there is a risk of unnecessary expenditure. It may be beneficial for me to explain the history to this over the phone, if so perhaps you could let me know a suitable time and I will give you a call tomorrow.

Kind regards

Joanne

Joanne Heal
Network Manager
Traffic and Network Management

Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge,
Wiltshire, BA14 8JD
Tel: +44 (0) 1225 713276
Mobile 07740 073371
Fax: +44 (0) 1225 713309

Fro **Paul Turner** (wirepuller@hotmail.com)
m:
Sent 14 October 2013 15:28:34
:
To: Joanne Heal Wilts CC
(joanne.heal@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Joanne,

I should be available for most of the day tomorrow but late morning would be preferable.

Unnecessary expenditure!?! Wilts CC has just spent £10,000 (estimated) on resurfacing Rudloe Community Centre access road! The expenditure involved in removing a small kerb would be an order of magnitude less than this!!

This car park could and should have been in use for school parking for many years past in order to alleviate parking problems in and around the school main entrance. If the yellow lines go ahead, it should be brought into use to accommodate the seventeen or so cars/parents who now park on the Bradford Road. As I indicated on 18 September, removal of the kerb would give access to the car park from Westwood Road and the exit could/should be via Leylands Road (along your £10k access road) thus making a useful 'circuit' without disturbing the rest of the estate.

Regards

Paul

Fro **Paul Turner** (wirepuller@hotmail.com)

m:

Sent 15 October 2013 10:54:59

:

To: Joanne Heal Wilts CC
(joanne.heal@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Joanne,

Thanks for the call.

As I indicated, I'm a bit disappointed that three-year's worth of emails to many addressees at Wilts CC appear not to have been forwarded to the principal in this matter - yourself!

Any road up, water under the bridge. A view from the hills regarding the parking would surely be: 'All concerned are looking for parking spaces for 20 cars; there is a 30-space car park available; use it!'

In the 'old days' when common sense prevailed (and when our kids went to the school) some parents from outside the local area would regularly park in Springfield Close and take the short walk to the safe, top, west, pedestrian gate to access the school. Similarly, some did and still do park at the bottom of Portal Avenue.

There never has been, and is not now, any need for an entrance directly on the fast, heavily-used B3109. Most locals were, and still are, astounded that this entrance was ever contemplated and implemented. I guess you're already aware but for the full email chain, go to the foot of the 'News', 'Rudloe' webpage here: <http://www.rudloescene.co.uk/news-1/rudloe/>

Sincerely

Paul

Fro **Paul Turner** (wirepuller@hotmail.com)

m:

Sent 20 October 2013 11:27:38

:

To: Joanne Heal Wilts CC (joanne.heal@wiltshire.gov.uk); Parvis Khansari
(parvis.khansari@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Joanne & Parvis,

To save Wilts County Council time and effort and (to save) ratepayers' cash why don't we adopt a 'lateral thinking' or perhaps a 'reverse engineering' approach to this issue?

If and when the double-yellow lines are implemented, the twenty cars/parents that have used the 'new' Bradford Road school entrance will have to use the main entrance at Broadwood Avenue and, hopefully, park at the Rudloe Community Centre.

This would mean that the only users of the new, Bradford Road, gate would be parents/children who, coming from the west, choose to walk to this gate. There are two! I repeat, there are two! The residents of Springfield Close, Highlands Close and Kidston Way have tended to stay put and have grown old as the estates have grown old. Also, there are no parents/children coming from The Links at Rudloe Fiveways.

For these two children and perhaps others who may come along in the future, a perfectly reasonable and safer route is via Leafy Lane and Portal Avenue to the main entrance in Broadwood Avenue. Alternatively, the old, safe (used for 26 years) pedestrian gate on/above the Bradford Road could (and should) be reopened.

Rather than go ahead with the planning, consulting and implementation of the (primrose) yellow line scheme, why not just present the school with this 'vision of the future' and request that the Bradford Road gate be closed thereby obviating the requirement for a yellow line scheme and saving ratepayers' money. All it would take is the turn of a key.

Whatever solution is adopted and with regard to the Community Centre car park, I just checked out the small kerb barrier and ramp between the upper and lower parking areas. There is really no issue here - the ramp is a very gentle slope and presumably was used perfectly well in years gone by. And rather than have lockable post barriers, why not just have a 'sleeping policeman' - in fact while the road repair team was there just a couple of weeks ago, a 'sleeping policeman' could have been constructed by covering the existing 'kerb barrier' with tarmac (after consultation with the Community Centre committee of course). This is another simple solution which could/should be adopted in the near future.

Simply yours

Paul

Fro **Heal,**
m: **Joanne** (joanne.heal@wiltshire.gov.uk)
Sent 25 October 2013 09:05:00
:
To: Paul Turner (wirepuller@hotmail.com)
Cc: Khansari, Parvis
(Parvis.Khansari@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Turner

Thank you for your email, my apologies for the delayed response I have been out of the office quite a bit recently.

As discussed during our recent phone call, we have spent some time assessing options for this site and my team are currently working on drafting the proposals for double yellow lines to prevent the parking outside of the school.

With regard to the school gate on Bradford Road, this was installed to enable a Disability Discrimination Act compliant school access and there are no plans to close this gate. This has been discussed with the school and they have made it clear that they do not wish to close this access. The proposed parking restrictions will however ensure that the concerns presented by parked vehicles outside this entrance are addressed.

As explained during our telephone conversation, due to the redevelopment of the Community Centre, we are unable to progress any changes to kerbing between the two parking areas.

I hope this clarifies the current situation for you.

Kind regards

Joanne

Joanne Heal
Network Manager
Traffic and Network Management
Wiltshire Council

Fro **Paul Turner** (wirepuller@hotmail.com)

m:

Sent 28 October 2013 17:51:29

:

To: Joanne Heal Wilts CC
(joanne.heal@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Cc: Parvis Khansari
(parvis.khansari@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Joanne,

Thanks for the response.

I appreciate that you have to follow the official line but I do wish that some reason/logic could be applied to this issue (mainly by the school of course).

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 'card' is a nonsense. I have repeatedly made this point in my emails to the school and governors. I realise that this is not within your jurisdiction so there's no mileage in repeating it here but I will anyway.

One local parent with an autistic child liable to make sudden, involuntary movements (who does not attend this school) has said that to require her to walk 100 metres down a busy road in order to comply with the DDA would be ridiculous. With regard to disabled children arriving by vehicle, a parent would have to be out of his/her mind parking on the B3109 with heavy traffic constantly passing when the safe main school entrance is available on Rudloe Estate. No school is require to make unreasonable changes in order to comply with the DDA. The DDA has been used by the school as an excuse for promotion and advertising.

There are no firm plans for redevelopment of the Community Centre at this time. Having spent £750,000 on a centre deemed, by Wilts CC, as 'not fit for purpose' and an estimated £10,000 on resurfacing the access road in the last few weeks, expenditure of what, a few hundred pounds, on a sleeping policeman would not be inappropriate.

It's preposterous that our representatives in positions of responsibility at education and county level cannot arrive at a reasonable, logical and inexpensive solution to this issue but have to go around the houses spending thousands more on an unnecessary 'solution'.

Regards

Paul

From: Paul Turner [<mailto:wirepuller@hotmail.com>]

Sent: 17 December 2013 12:30

To: Geenty, Patrick; Macpherson, Angus

Subject: 13 December accident on B3109 at Rudloe - road closure

Sirs,

Apologies for contacting you directly but yours are the only email addresses I can find for Wiltshire Police.

As the subject indicates, there was an accident on the B3109 at Rudloe at about 4pm on Friday 13th December resulting in the closure of the road.

There is no information in the local press about the accident but there is lots of Facebook chat about it.

I wonder could you direct this email to a department that could give some definitive information about the accident i.e. time, vehicles involved, times of road closure and reopening, perhaps (if you have the information) information about casualties and anything

else which you believe might be relevant. Phone contact is not definitive as things said may be subject to misinterpretation or forgotten through lack of a good memory (in my case).

I ask this in order to publish definitive information on the Rudloe website (<http://www.rudloescene.co.uk/>) which is administered by me and provides news and much more for Rudloe residents.

Thanks in advance.

Paul Turner
29 Springfield Close
Rudloe SN13 0JR
01225 810408
07803 295291
<http://www.rudloescene.co.uk/>

- RE: 13 December accident on B3109 at Rudloe - road closure [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/UNCLASSIFIED]

Geenty, Patrick (Patrick.Geenty@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

18/12/2013

To: 'Paul Turner'
Cc: Davey, Nicki

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/UNCLASSIFIED

Mr. Turner

Thank you for your email. I have asked my staff officer to research and update you asap.

Nicki

Please see the below request can you find out what happened and update Mr. Turner.

Regards

Pat Geenty

Chief Constable

Wiltshire Police

Tel:101 ext 7202127

Mobile: 07773 027371

Email: Patrick.Geenty@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Address: Wiltshire Police Headquarters, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN

- RE: 13 December accident on B3109 at Rudloe - road closure [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/UNCLASSIFIED]

Police and Crime Commission

er (PoliceandCrimeCommissioner@wiltshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk)

18/12/2013

To: 'wirepuller@hotmail.com'

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Mr Turner

Thank you for your email. I have passed this to the Constabulary's press office for a response to your enquiry. They should be in touch with you shortly.

Yours sincerely

Laura Nutland

FOI & Complaints Officer

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

London Road, Devizes, SN10 2RD

Tel : 01380 734022

(internal ext 7203584)

- RE: 13 December accident on B3109 at Rudloe - road closure [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/UNCLASSIFIED]

Sam Edwards (Wilts Police)

18/12/2013

To: 'wirepuller@hotmail.com'

Good Afternoon Paul

I've been forwarded a copy of your below e-mail. Whilst there is no current online coverage of the incident the press did contact us on Monday about it and something is likely to appear in the Wiltshire times on Friday I suspect. It is likely to just be a short sideline piece.

The road was closed for a time after a 17 year old male, riding his motorbike, collided with a parked vehicle on the road close to the Rudloe Estate, near Five Ways Junction.

It appears no substantial damage was caused to the vehicle as it left the scene a short time later. The male was treated by an ambulance at the scene for an injured foot and was taken to Frenchay for further treatment.

The collision happened around 4:20pm and the road was clear again by around 6:20pm.

I hope this helps.

Regards

Sam

Sam Edwards | Media Officer | Wiltshire Police

Phone: 101 ext 7202266 DDi : 01380 735721

E-mail: sam.edwards@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Mail: Press Office, Wiltshire Police, London Road,
Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN

- RE: 13 December accident on B3109 at Rudloe - road closure [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/UNCLASSIFIED]

Paul Turner

18/12/2013

To: Edwards, Sam

Sam,

Thanks for the prompt response.

There is quite a distance between the entrance to "Rudloe Estate" and "Five Ways Junction" so I really wanted a more precise location. I believe that the the parked car was outside the B3109

entrance to Corsham Primary School which is roughly midway between Rudloe Estate and what we call Rudloe Fiveways. Is this correct?

Also, do you have any idea how/why the motorbike collided with the car? The accident happened at dusk - would this have anything to do with it? Did the parked car have its lights on?

Regards

Paul Turner

- RE: 13 December accident on B3109 at Rudloe - road closure [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/UNCLASSIFIED]

Sam Edwards (Wilts Police)

18/12/2013

To: 'Paul Turner'

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Paul

Apologies, I had ducked out of the office for an hour.

Apologies but I'm unable to pinpoint the location simply because it doesn't say anything more on the call log that I am looking at here.

In terms of how and why it happened I'm not sure that will ever be entirely clear but there is a suggestion that lights of on-coming vehicles played apart. I'm not suggesting they had their full beam on or anything but that it simply made vision an issue.

I hope that helps a bit more and sorry again for not being able to shed much light on the exact location. It may be that you wish to e-mail the local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) who may have a bit more knowledge. Their details are available through the Wiltshire Police website:

[Corsham NPT details](#)

Regards

Sam

- **RE: 13 December accident on B3109 at Rudloe - road closure [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/UNCLASSIFIED]**

Paul Turner

18/12/2013

To: Sam Edwards (Wilts Police)

Sam,

Thanks again - I'll email the locals as you suggest.

I'm just about to leave for the rest of the day now but in the meantime I have updated the Rudloe News at the Rudloe website here:

<http://www.rudloescene.co.uk/news-1/rudloe/>

My son, who was in the vicinity at the time of the accident, has confirmed that it took place outside the school gate.

You may see on the Rudloe website that there is, and has been for three years and more, an issue about parking outside this gate. If you read the file shown in the 'link' at the foot of the 'News', 'Rudloe' webpage you may lose the will to live as it's about sixty pages of emails and meeting minutes etc about the dangers inherent in this 'new' gate.

Regards

Paul Turner

- **B3109 Bradford Road**

Paul Turner

21/12/2013

To: John Thompson Wilts CC, Parvis Khansari

Cc: Joanne Heal Wilts CC

Rudloe- Fulfilling Corsham's housing need.



John & Parvis,

A local media man has produced a short video about what he feels is 'corruption' surrounding the planning process, with particular regard to planning application 13/05724/OUT 'Land south of the Bradford Road at Rudloe'.

Be this as it may, my purpose in forwarding this video to you is for you to view the footage in the middle of the piece shot on one day, last Wednesday 18th I believe, just five days after a serious accident at the location of the 'new' Corsham Primary Woodland School gate. (I say "serious" in view of the injuries sustained by the motorcyclist involved).

Neither the school authorities nor the parents using the gate appear to appreciate the inherent dangers of this entrance. Or perhaps they just do not care? Anyway, whatever the reason, the footage is more than cautionary; it indicates that action must be taken forthwith before a more serious accident occurs.

The video may be viewed here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzRHmxKiJFQ>

The traffic footage starts at around 1 minute 25 seconds.

Sincerely

Paul Turner
29 Springfield Close
Rudloe SN13 0JR

01225 810408

07803 295291

<http://www.rudloescene.co.uk/>

(In the email below, please see the 'PS')

- **Objection to Hannick Homes Development 13/05724/OUT at Rudloe, Corsham.**

Julian Carosi

25/12/2013

To: chris.marsh@wiltshire.gov.uk, developmentmanagement@wiltshire.gov.uk

Cc: duncan@duncanhames.org.uk

Rudloe- Fulfilling Corsham's housing need.



Dear Chris,

I'd like to voice my very strong objection to the Hannick Homes Development 13/05724/OUT at Rudloe, Corsham.

This is yet another attempt by local landowners to try and make a profit from the recent relaxing of Government planning regulations. This is also, totally against the local brown field development capacity, already available to achieve the Wiltshire Core Strategy, which identified a need for 1050

additional homes for Corsham between 2006 and 2026. By April this year, 811 of these homes had been built or had been granted planning permission.

I will not bore you with my genuine reasons and concerns, as you will no doubt have already received many letters objecting to this development; nevertheless, as a local resident who has lived here all his life, I am totally against this development.

PS: I seriously suggest that you also look very quickly at the very dangerous situation that has been created on the Bradford Road in Corsham, due to the addition of an access gate to the Primary school in Rudloe (alongside the main road; B3109). I pass this gate on my journey to work each day, and have nearly had accidents on several occasions during school pick up times. It is only a matter of time before a fatality occurs, due to the parking near to the fast blind bend; Lord help us that it's not a child! I'm not sure whether this new gate is directly linked to the proposed development, but I believe that in the long term it may be. Something needs to be done here, before the new term starts in 2014. I would not like to be in any of your planners' shoes if a serious accident happens here, as you only have to stand on the pavement for a few minutes at school pick-up time, to see (that without proper parking and traffic calming management) what a *barking mad* idea it was to grant planning permission for this gate to be installed where it is. Watch the You Tube video created by a local resident here, it should be x-Rated! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzRHmxKIJFQ>

Regards,

Julian Carosi
27 Light Close
Corsham
Wiltshire
SN13 0DF

- **B3109 Parking at Rudloe**

Paul Turner
14/01/2014
To: John Thompson Wilts CC, Parvis Khansari
Cc: Joanne Heal Wilts CC

John & Parvis,

Greetings from Rudloe.

I appreciate that the consultation for the discussed yellow (primrose I trust) line scheme has been set in train but it still may be further enlightening to view a relevant article, whose headline is given below, at the Rudloe 'News', 'Rudloe' webpage here:

<http://www.rudloescene.co.uk/news-1/rudloe/>

Sincerely

Paul Turner
29 Springfield Close
Rudloe

01225 810408

13th January 2013 - insensitive, dangerous parking on B3109 outside Corsham Woodland School