

**Parking Issues Working Group  
Meeting with local schools  
4pm, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 at Meopham Windmill**

**Present:** Cllrs Jo McTavish (Chairman of the Working Group), Sheila Buchanan, Roz Knott and John Ogden – Meopham Parish Council  
Mandy Cason – Community Warden  
Rebecca Nicolson, Head Teacher, Meopham Community Academy  
Ruth Doughty – Head Teacher, Culverstone Green Primary School  
Julia Hockey – Business and Finance Manager, Helen Allison School  
Sarah Eggesden – Clerk, Meopham Parish Council

**Minutes**

**1. To note apologies**

No apologies noted.

**2. Introductions**

Introductions were held.

**3. To explain the reasons for the parking safety campaign**

Cllr McTavish explained the reasons behind the campaign:-

- Public meeting held for the Parish Plan had highlighted that one of biggest issues in the parish is to do with parking
- The Parish Council has received complaints from residents regarding illegal parking issues
- As the Parish Council has limited powers to do anything regarding parking issues, Cllr B Sweetland offered to help pay for a parking safety campaign via his members grant and we have secured £1500 funding for this campaign

J.Hockey arrived at 4.15pm.

**4. To hear from the schools on any action that they are currently taking in respect of parking issues**

Culverstone Green Primary School

- They have a walking bus but it is not popular. This is run by parents.
- There is not any funding for a drop off zone
- They have tried the KCC 'walk on Wednesday' with rewards but this hasn't had an impact.
- They regularly send out reminders on parking in newsletter, tried the 'pester power' approach and have had children design posters in the past.
- M Cason advised that she run the Lego Club at Culverstone School but it was difficult to find volunteers to commit to run it.

#### Helen Allison School

- Their issues are around staff parking – 77 pupils to 120 staff although not all at the Longfield Road site. Currently around 70 staff park here.
- Children come in by taxi. They have to have a drop off zone in the school grounds and this has reduced the parking spaces currently for staff who then have to find alternative parking close by. Staff have been reminded to ensure they park legally and safely.
- Over the summer, further land is being allocated for parking so this should help to alleviate some the issues.

R Nicolson advised that Meopham Community Academy has had more parking issues over the last three to four months, probably due to the Helen Allison School parking situation.

J Hockey asked if staff from Helen Allison could park at Camer Park then one member of staff could pick them up, only until the end of the summer term? Cllr McTavish advised J Hockey to write to Borough Councillor Julia Burgoyne via the Civic Centre address.

#### Meopham Community Academy

- Tried various schemes; Walk on Wednesday, Park and Stride using Bartellas, George PH and the St John's church car park.
- They sent out reminders regarding parking
- Explained about 'Operation Brakes', a police initiative on parking and speeding. This is taking place shortly at the school and will involve the children  
**Agreed:** to pass on the details to Culverstone School.
- Cannot have a drop off area on the school site as not enough space

Parking in School Close car park was discussed. If it was marked better this might increase the available parking.

Camer Parade parking was discussed. Parents parking here blocks people from using the shops. Meopham Community Academy had offered use of its car park at the weekends for Camer Parade shoppers but people were not prepared to walk.

M. Cason advised that a Lego Club will be running at St John's shortly.  
**Agreed:** M Cason to liaise with R Nicolson on this.

#### 5. To note the proposed action plan and time frame for the launch of a parking safety campaign

Meopham Parish Council will continue to liaise with GBC Parking Enforcements and KCC Highways on the parking issues.

Cllr McTavish outlined the idea of the campaign, a poster competition for the school children to produce signs, poster and banners followed by the launch of the campaign in September including two events to be

held at either a Village hall or a school locations with a talk from the Police/KCC. R. Nicolson confirmed that Meopham Academy would be happy to hold one of the events. Culverstone School thought it would be a good idea to schedule time in to the school day to design the poster.

All schools present agreed that they would be happy to work with the parish council.

R. Nicolson left the meeting at 5.05pm

## **6. Agree next steps**

Meopham Parish Council will let the schools know more about the timetable for the campaign and get back to all the schools so they can start on this after the May half term holiday.

Holiday dates for the schools were noted.

Any ideas for speakers for the events to be forwarded to the Parish Council.

## **7. Any other business**

Cllr McTavish mentioned Picnic on the Green on the 13<sup>th</sup> August and asked if leaflets could go in the book bags again or emailed to parents. The theme is Pocahontas as it is the 400 year anniversary.

## **8. To agree on a date for any further meetings**

It was agreed to liaise by email.