

UPDATE REPORT FOR AREA PANEL ON 10 NOVEMBER 2004

Provided by Headteacher, Jackie Waterhouse

Ref: 304037 Dale Community Primary School

Traffic Congestion:

There is a problem with traffic at the beginning and at the end of the school day as there is with most schools that are sited within a residential area. The school has no on-site parking facility. All available site space has to be used as pupil play area and there is no space for car parking. The school employs nearly 100 staff and most of them do not live locally. Many use public transport, however the majority are forced to use their cars. Cars are parked on Belvoir Street, Porter Road and Meynell Street. Cars are parked wherever there is an appropriate space.

The school is working with the City Council to improve the traffic and parking situation. Parents are encouraged to allow their children to walk to school. The school tries to discourage parents from dropping/collecting children by car and also encourages staff to use alternative transport. Advice has been sought from the City Council's Travel Plan Co-ordinator to establish a travel plan for the school which will help formalise the measures already put in place by the school aimed at reducing congestion and parking.

The school wants to be a good neighbour and has already reacted to positive suggestions put forward by those living nearby. For example it was agreed that the school would have the zig-zag lines removed from Meynell street, not added, since pupils no longer exit onto this street. This has been done and staff are now able to park their cars there and many do.

Sports Facility:

It is true that various groups of youths trespass on the school grounds in the evenings and at weekends. Mostly, these are not pupils from the school. They have caused a great deal of damage to the fabric of the building and its environment. They seem to do this more than making use of the sports court. We have always had children and youths on site after school hours, both before and after the sports court was built.

The police are aware of the situation and have been supportive. However they seem unable to solve the problem although several youths have been interviewed. The school's site manager has given his contact details to local residents so that in the case of anyone committing a nuisance, he can contact the police since the residents seem reluctant to do so.

Until anti social behaviour orders are placed on the offenders it seems that there will be very little change. However the weather and seasonal change will

be working in our favour. The problem is always greater during the Summer months.

I am not sure if our neighbour is accusing the school of producing rubbish in the streets which attracts vermin. Any rubbish that is left on the street by pupils at the school is usually of the paper variety and therefore not particularly appetising to vermin. We remove this if we see it. We also have specific teaching programmes to educate children about their responsibilities towards litter.

I myself have removed beer cans, take away food cartons, spirit bottles, broken glass and dog dirt from around the entrance to the school. I and other staff have also had to remove adult vomit and urine from the pavement so that the environment is safe for children. This refuse is caused by irresponsible adults, not school pupils. We clear it up because we want to be responsible and provide our pupils with a pleasant and safe environment.

The School Pond:

The pond is sited at the corner of Belvoir Street and Clarence Road and is separated from the pavement by iron railings. The pond was made before a number of improvements were made to the site. We now plan to resite it as soon as we are able because it is used by passers by to dump whatever rubbish they have at the time. The pond is a valuable teaching resource spoilt by the accumulation of litter. Although we clear the site regularly it always fills up again. We apologise if this is an eye-sore to residents

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Jacky Waterhouse
Headteacher

October 2004