



Katherine Warrington School Travel Plan Group

Minutes of meeting held on

Wednesday 18th November 2020, 16:30 at KWS (Online)

Present: David Williams (DWI) , Max Oram (MOR) , Nick Truran (NTR), Philip Waters (PWA) (From 5:00pm), Dean Inns (DIN) , Amelia-Ella Jones (Minutes)

Apologies: Christine Plum, Lisa Evans, Mary Maynard

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising	
<p>Minutes of the previous meeting from the 27 th January 2020 circulated. No further meetings took place in the 19/20 academic year due to COVID-19. DIN confirmed that the meeting minutes from the previous meeting are accurate.</p>	
2. Infrastructure - maintenance and usage issues	
<p>DIN outlined consultation regarding double yellow lines surrounding school which ended at the end of October 2020 to alleviate parking problems in the surrounding roads. The school has received no major objections so suspected local residents had responded to the consultation. DWA mentioned that there had been a lot of noise on Social Media regarding the consultation.</p> <p>DWA highlighted that restrictions were a part of our offer to local residents to allow them to go about their daily lives.</p> <p>DIN stated there have been a handful of complaints from local residents since September regarding parking. Parking maps have been handed out and 99% parents have been compliant picking up children further away from school. The few parents that have been spoken to several times about not complying have still, despite parking closer to the school, have been parking legally and have not left their engines idling. DIN has been patrolling two to three days a week, receiving positive feedback from residents and is happy to respond to complaints from local residents if they call the school.</p> <p>DWA mentioned local complaints and said they have been responded to very quickly. DWA mentioned a workshop owner from Batford Mill had emailed him regarding parking and is interested in selling his land for a car park. DIN responded that at the current time the school was not interested in the land as we had adequate parking for our Staff and Visitors.</p> <p>DIN pointed out that more people are driving to school due to COVID-19. We don't have parking for all parents on site at pick up so parents have to park 5-10 minutes away as per the Zonal Map. However, the school is allowing parents to drop off in the morning on the school site as this time period is spread over half an hour; therefore, the issues with neighbours and parking is primarily focused around the end of the school day.</p>	DIN



Pedestrians – crossings and footways

DIN outlined a large number of students that can, do walk to school. The Pelican Crossing on the Lower Luton Road is now live and functioning well.

Cyclists – crossings and cycle routes

DIN highlighted there have been a couple of complaints from Crabtree School parents with younger children, about cyclists crossing the Crabtree Lane Bridge too quickly. The school currently have a staff member on duty at the bridge but this isn't sustainable long term.

Parents from Crabtree School also suggested railings be put up.

NTR said he would talk to Mark who has led on the cycling improvements. He will see what can be done but need to consider mobility/disabled access.

NTR mentioned that speed cushions have recently been completed in this area. NTR will look into new road markings being completed on Marquis Road/Crabtree Lane to ensure it is obvious that Marquis Lane has the right of way.

DWI mentioned a local resident is very disappointed with the bridge design, due to the hand rails being too high, DWI thinks it is practical and safe but will always listen to feedback. DIN stated there are no issues from the schools point of view and the bridge is perfectly suitable.

DIN reiterated that members of staff are out there and having a look and doing everything in their power to work with the community. DIN had received thanks from the local residents for this.

Bus stops (see bus services)

DIN buses have been stopping on site and all run smoothly since September apart from a few minor lateness issues due to traffic but this is to be expected.

DWI asked what happened to the main entrance gate on the road. DIN explained that a drunk driver hit the central island and tried to correct but mis-judged and this resulted in them crashing into the gate and post.

DIN pointed out this was the second time this has happened in 12 months. The school caretaker who lives locally has pointed out that the islands are not always easy to see late at night which is when the incident occurred. NTR will talk to Mark about the road island light going off as it should be on a different timer to the main street lights and so shouldn't remain on through the night.

DIN mentioned the 20 mile an hour school sign has been resolved now and now come on during school pick up and drop off hours.

DWI asked if there was an update on the Piggottshill Lane lighting scheme. DIN stated that the last update he had was that Kier are yet to receive an instruction to complete/carry out this work as part of their contract. NTR thought it was going to the Panel this month for discussion/approval.



DWI stated one of the issues with implementing this lighting is that there is no power going down the side of the road so would be incredibly expensive. This is because the entire road would need to be dug up to lay mains cable that could be junctioned off to the lighting columns.

Parking management – school car park and on-street

Covered in discussions above.

Liaising with local residents

2 parents volunteers couldn't make the meeting today unfortunately. We have invited local residents to join the committee but none have been forthcoming as yet.

3. Services - usage, punctuality, qualitative issues, behaviour

DIN

DIN 146 students are travelling by bus out of 360 so approximately 40%. We will have increasingly more people from Harpenden and surrounding areas minus the sibling rule which should be catered for on the current bus services.

DIN said the catchment area will shrink as the school grows which will hopefully decrease reliance on buses.

DWI asked if there had been any behaviour issues on the buses.

DIN took a couple of weeks to enforce masks but now they're wearing them in school as well so easier to implement. There was also one complaint from a member of the public who was following the 807 bus and witnessed pushing and water bottles being thrown at the back of the bus. The bus company provided the CCTV footage so the school was able to deal with the incident.

One parent has asked if it's possible for an additional stop on the 811 near Marford Road and the junction with Green Lanes. 3 students live in this area and have to get off at the next stop which means they now have to walk in the Dark to get home. MOR will pass the message onto Guy Brigden to see if anything can be done.

DIN said he will forward the parents' email to Guy.

PWA (Philip Waters) joined (17:06).

DIN believes the new Y7 mapping was completed although as we didn't have a meeting in the Summer Term due to COVID this wasn't reviewed. MOR to check with Guy that this has been completed.

MOR had no bus issues to raise on behalf of the Passenger Transport team.

4. Promotional Measures

DIN

DIN talked through the step competition and walk to school month run in October 2020. We have had more students walking for the month and the banner was displayed on the school boundary. We have also run the get to school safely campaign and be seen in the dark images on Social Media. The School Behaviour policy has been updated for travel and bullying to make sure they are subject to school rules on the buses and on their way to and from school.



Modeshift Bronze award has been achieved 12 months ahead of schedule and the school are now working towards the silver award.

DWI asked how many children are cycling.

DIN said all is included in the hands up survey which was completed in early September. The survey shows 36 students cycling compared to last year where there were 8. However, DIN suspects more students are cycling now due to how early on in the term the survey was conducted and the cycling sheds are reasonably full daily.

DWI asked what years are more likely to cycle and if Y9 and 10 are big cycling years.

NTR responded that across Herts Year 9 and Year 10 are the peak years for cycling but then as school pressure increases they cycle less.

DIN stated that lockdown got in the way of cycling proficiency plans that were planned for Easter 2020 but we would like to take this forward and offer the course to Year 7 and 8 around Easter 2021 to get them all up to Level 3. Cycling is also the desired mode of transport for 3 members of the SLT including the Headteacher.

5. Monitoring

DIN outlined roughly 23% of students are walking this year compared to 21% last year. Cycling has increased from 5% to 12%.

NTR says this is good for schools as in 140 school surveys, the usual is about 2% of the school who cycle.

PWA said that this is good and asked do we know where the people who are cycling are coming from, is this because of the improvements that have been made on the surrounding roads.

DIN said we can include in our next survey to see if the cycle route Improvements are the reason more people are cycling.

PWA finding this out will help to justify future works and lighting on Piggottshill lane.

DIN buses are around 50% however, students have misunderstood the difference between school buses and private buses so we have combined these figures. Car travel has increased from 11% to 20% but we think this is due to COVID. Some children have a mix of transport so are not driven by Car every day but have picked Car in the survey.

Preferred figures show 68% of students want to get the bus. Car Travel drops down to 9% in the preferred figures so once COVID lifts we can hope to get down to this level.

DIN stated we will carry out another survey in January to get an accurate picture before the next meeting.

DIN

6. Amendments to Travel Plan

DIN



PWA said it's likely for admissions patterns to be similar in future years and for the Catchment area to shrink. DIN hasn't got as far as updating the travel plan yet but it does require an Annual Review.

DIN to update and bring to the next Travel Committee before taking to Trustees for final approval.

We also need to update to show we have achieved the Bronze Modeshift Award.

PWA asked if that is the highest level of Modeshift that can be awarded.

NTR stated they have recently added a Platinum level to the Modeshift Awards so there are now five levels in total rather than three. The school is likely to be able to work towards this.

7. Any Other Business

All

DIN highlighted that the guidance from Modeshift Stars mentions have students on the travel committee.

DWI mentioned that these students are only young and this meeting may be daunting to them.

The Committee was happy for DIN to set up a separate Student Working Group in school that could then feed into the Travel Committee.

DWI mentioned they have sixth form prefects involved at Roundwood and DIN stated KWS would work towards this once we have sixth form aged students.

NTR suggested contacting the Active Safer Travel Team and asking for our Sustainable Travel Officer, who'll be able to help with progressing Modeshift stars, about launching a student committee. DIN will follow that up and is also planning to get Living Streets in to deliver an assembly to students.

PWA suggested involving students in some way as they are usually more enthusiastic than adults, so would be a good idea.

PWA confirmed that everything is going well given COVID and lockdown for large parts of the last academic year.

DIN said thank you for all the support we get from HCC and the Herts Transport Team as this all helps the school deliver a sustainable travel plan.

PWA confirmed that DIN would be the new School Travel Plan Coordinator. DIN confirmed he will be.

DIN suggested the next meeting should be in January/February 2020 and we would meet again in the Summer Term once we have information on our September 2021 cohort.

Meeting Duration: 17:30 1hr

Date of Next Meeting: TBC