



**Report to Darlaston Local Neighbourhood
Partnership**

4 January 2006

ROUGH HAY ROAD DARLASTON – PARKING PROBLEMS

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise the Local Neighbourhood Partnership of recommendations to reduce the problems of congestion and obstruction in Rough Hay Road associated with 'school gate parking'

Report detail

Complaints have been received from residents in Rough Hay Road over a period of time about indiscriminate parking associated with the schools in Rough Hay Road and more recently the matter has been further highlighted by Peter Burton, Chair of the Rough Hay Local Committee via Councillor Rose Burley.

Investigations have now been undertaken which has confirmed some of the problems which residents have detailed. It is clear that at the start and close of the school day this road is subject to excessive on street-parking which causes congestion for through traffic and obstruction of driveways.

In addition, the WHG office situated in this road attracts several vans and lorries during the week which are parked on street.

The school appears to be doing all it can to minimise the nuisance of 'school gate parking' and was one of the first of 15 schools in Walsall to produce and submit a 'school travel plan' which was approved in July 05. With the subsequent capital grant of £5250 the school have since constructed a cycle shelter and provided 3 benches for parents to use while waiting for children at home time. Further initiatives are as follows:

Cycle Training & Storage:

The school carries out cyclists training for year 6 which has led to a significant increase in the number of children cycling with 20 to 30 children regularly cycling to school.

Walking Initiative:

There are currently 67% of children walking to school and the school is looking to introduce a Walking Bus.

Voluntary Car Sharing & Park & Stride:

The school is considering promoting both of these initiatives through articles in their newsletters to parents which is also used to promote their school travel plan to parents, governors and the wider community.

****The results of a survey have just been released which shows that between the period February –November 2005 there has been a dramatic 800% increase in children cycling to school with a 13% reduction in car usage for children being dropped off at school together with a 6% drop in children walking to school.*

Notwithstanding these school measures it is intended to pursue a One-Way Working in Rough Hay Road from Willenhall Street in a north-westerly direction to the junction with Hall Street. This will significantly reduce the congestion as well as improving road safety at the wide junction of Rough Hay Road and Hall Street .

Whilst it is acknowledged that the section of Rough Hay Road between Willenhall Street and Addenbrooke Street in the vicinity of St Joseph's RC JMI School is subject to some congestion at 'school times', the situation is not considered onerous enough to justify any similar measures at the present times.

Resource and Legal Considerations

The 'One-Way Working' scheme will be programmed into the 2006/7 Capital Budget under 'Highway Efficiency Measures' subject to funding.

Citizen Impact

Inconsiderate and unauthorised parking can be a cause of extreme frustration for residents and may also exacerbate existing road safety issues.

Environment Impact

The improved through flow of traffic and the resultant reduction in congestion should improve the degree of environmental enjoyment of the residents.

Performance Management and Risk Management Issues

None relating directly to this report

Equality Implications

None directly relating to this report.

Consultation

Peter Burton, Chair of the Rough Hay Local Committee has already undertaken some consultation with residents, but the formal pursuance of the scheme will include full consultation.

Links to Vision 2008

One of the Council's key priorities is to 'Make it easier for people to get around'. This scheme will accord with that vision.

Contact Officers

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