

# **MUCH BIRCH SCHOOL & PARISH PARKING AND ROAD MEETING**

**Notes of the Meeting of The Much Birch School & Parish Parking and Road Meeting held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January at the Much Birch CE Primary School at 2.30pm**

## **Present were:**

Cllr. Alison Cook (Chair of Much Birch Parish Council)  
Mrs Hilary Hines (Head teacher of Much Birch CE Primary)  
Mr Mark Taylor (School Governor)  
Mrs Alison Wright (Parish Clerk for Much Birch)  
Cllr Jon Norris (Ward Councillor)  
Cllr Keith James (Resident)  
Mrs Sophie Glover (Parent)  
Mr Graham Hornsby (Balfour Beatty Road Engineer)  
Mr David Atkinson (Balfour Beatty Locality Steward)

## **Meeting purpose and objective**

The main purpose of the meeting was to identify current and ongoing issues, and concerns, around school parking, speed, road safety and traffic regulation orders in the vicinity of the Much Birch School, A49 Trunk Road and Tump Lane, Much Birch, Herefordshire. Following on from this having been done, to then move forward and to discuss ways in which change and improvement may be effected to benefit those using the highway.

Cllr Cook opened the meeting and all those present introduced themselves to one another. Cllr Cook outlined the issues concerning the current traffic regulation order (TRO), and yellow lining, with particular reference to the lines around the property known as "Fairview". The current TRO in place prohibited deliveries to the property and the general consensus was that the existing lines had pushed the previous problems, as experienced, further up the road.

## **Further issues that were highlighted included:**

- Resident(s) from the opposite side of the road parking opposite the yellow lining and potentially causing an obstruction at key drop off and pick up times plus during evening events.
- Difficulties for cars to pass during periods of high traffic and potential for impasse with regard to buses meeting in the road with no opportunity to back up.
- Cars exceeding the speed limit due to open road with 60mph limit just before the location of the school
- 40mph and 30mph limits still considered too fast in the vicinity of the school
- Issues of pedestrians using the roads to walk to school with large vehicles passing, often at speed, and danger of crossing the A49 Trunk Road where again the speed limit was often exceeded and near misses had been recently witnessed.
- Issue of staggered railings on the A49 and potential for children to run out into the road.
- No pavement on Tump Lane and no crossing on the A49

Discussion followed on aspects of road safety. Mr Hornsby advised that amendments to the TRO and speed restriction will likely take a lengthy period to become law due to staffing restrictions, back log of workload and prioritisation scoring mechanisms. The amending of the TRO could take as long as five years to resolve from the day of any revision application commencing.

**Some suggestions for remedial solutions included:**

- To arrange for an approach to be made to local residents to help overcome the parking habits that were inadvertently contributing to the congestion at peak traffic flow times.
- To request suitable amendments, including timing, to the Traffic Orders to facilitate sensible restrictions that would apply at designated peak times and which would then be relaxed to permit deliveries etc. when not required in order to manage the school related traffic. E.g. waiting times restriction between say 8.30 and 9.30 am and also at the close of the school day.
- To apply for and obtain reductions in the speed limits on the road leading up to the school from 60mph to possibly 30 or 40mph and with the speed limit outside the school itself being reduced to 20mph (as outside many other schools).
- To request the installation of traffic calming mechanisms, if considered necessary.
- To continue to develop and explore ways of engaging parents to co-operate with drop off initiatives (one such idea currently being trialled to assist with this) and to consider an informal one-way option to avoid queues and passing problems.
- To consider options for bus timetabling and or routing where practicable.
- To request speed analysis exercise by Herefordshire Council to determine exact speed issues.
- To revisit the possibility of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS).
- To engage with the Highways Agency to consider all aspects of road safety and the potential for any crossing initiatives to help minimise the dangers of crossing the main A49.

**Way forward and next steps:**

The next stage would be to make contact with the Highways Agency with a view to including a representative from there at the next consultation meeting and to start to identify the practicalities of progressing some or all of the suggested changes.

Thanks were conveyed to all those who had attended and the meeting closed at 3.45pm.