
TO: COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PLANNING POLICY BOARD

ON: 21 MAY 2019

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PLANNING

HEADING: SCHOOL PARKING INITIATIVE

1. Summary

- 1.1 Since March 2018, Council officers have been working with Police Scotland to provide support to a number of schools where parking and traffic at school drop off and pick up times has been seen to be particularly difficult and to assist them in developing an action plan to improve the behaviours at their school. This work has been very successful in raising awareness of the issue at a number of schools and at working with the school community, Parent Councils and wider residents locally to develop and introduce improvements.
 - 1.2 At its meeting on 28 February 2019, the Council committed £0.1M of recurring revenue resources to further develop this work and, in particular, to tackle the issue of irresponsible parking around schools through the introduction of a school exclusion pilot at a number of schools where this might be an effective intervention.
 - 1.3 This report sets out some of the work undertaken so far in a number of schools across Renfrewshire and outlines early proposals for school exclusion zones to be introduced around certain schools within Renfrewshire on a pilot basis. Consultation will be undertaken over the coming months with schools where it is assessed that this might be a viable and effective proposal, with consultees including the school community, Elected Members, affected residents and Police Scotland who would have the responsibility to enforce the exclusion restrictions put in place.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board:
 - (a) notes the work undertaken over the past year with regards to the school parking initiative; and

- (b) notes the work being taken forward to develop pilot exclusion zones around schools.
-

3. School Parking Initiative – 2018/19

- 3.1 In March 2018, a school parking campaign was launched, working with Police Scotland and arranging meetings with schools and the Chair of Parent Council's to look at issues caused by irresponsible parking around the school and the inconsiderate behaviour of drivers at school drop off and pick up times.
- 3.2 The schools initially chosen and contacted as part of this campaign were:
- St Mary's Primary School
 - St Charles Primary School
 - Todholm Primary School
 - Lochfield Primary School
 - Kirklandneuk Primary School
 - Arkleston Primary School
 - Inchinnan Primary School
 - West Primary School
- 3.3 Contact was made with each school and meetings arranged to discuss and implement an action plan that might improve the position. With regards to each school:

St Mary's Primary School

- Meetings held with Spinners Gate Management to discuss buses, drop off and pick-up arrangements and parking, and with the Head Teacher and Chair of Parent Council to discuss what can be done and devise an action plan for the school.
- Maxwellton Road resurfaced and lines replenished outside school
- Visits undertaken by Wardens and Police Scotland to enforce parking restrictions.
- Banners and parking pledge issued at the school.

St Charles Primary School

- Contact was made with Head Teacher advising of the campaign and the inclusion of the school.
- Environment & Infrastructure – Transport, have led work in and around St Charles Primary School to make transport improvements.

Todholm Primary School

- Meetings held with Parent Council representatives and a small working group and action plan established
- Works undertaken to extend the zig-zag lines and consider improvements of footpaths.
- Visits undertaken by Wardens and Police Scotland to enforce parking restrictions.
- New banners and school parking pledge issued at the school.

Lochfield Primary School

- Visit to school and meetings held to establish an action plan for Lochfield Primary School.
- Residents meetings held to discuss parking issues around Lochfield PS
- Police Scotland and Renfrewshire Wardens had a presence in the first week of school term for enforcement with further visits undertaken by Wardens and Police.
- 10 high viz vests procured to allow school kids to assist and go out and speak to parents (as part of Action Plan).
- Banners left for school to erect as part of action plan.

Kirklandneuk Primary School

- Meeting held with Elected Member, Head Teacher and Parent Council to discuss school parking. Discussion included setting up a small working group to look at issues.
- Meeting held with Depute Head Teacher, Chair of Parent Council and Junior Road Safety Officers in October 2018. Action Plan devised for Kirklandneuk Primary School.
- Visits undertaken by Wardens and Police Scotland to enforce parking restrictions.
- New lining of bus bays undertaken in Porterfield Road.
- New banners and school parking pledge issued at the school and circulated to parents and carers.

Arkleston Primary School

- Contact made with the Head Teacher advising of the campaign and the inclusion of the school.
- Following discussion with the Head Teacher, there was a feeling that parking was not an issue around this school and no further action was required.

Inchinnan Primary School

- Meeting held with Head Teacher and Chair of Parent Council regarding the school parking campaign.
- Visits to school with Police Scotland to meet with Head Teacher, Nursery and Chair of Parent Council and develop an action plan for Inchinnan Primary School.
- Zig-zag lines were repainted and required a change for bus parking.
- Police Scotland and Renfrewshire Wardens undertook parking enforcement.
- New banners and parking pledge issued at school.

West Primary School

- West Primary School included as part of campaign due to proximity with St Mary's Primary School.
- Visits and meeting undertaken with Head Teacher to discuss issues, however, while noted not to be as bad as at other primary schools an action Plan has been devised for West Primary School.
- Visits were undertaken by Wardens and Police as part of St Mary's visits.
- Banners to be passed to West Primary School as part of the school parking campaign.

- 3.4 In summary, all schools were different, and there were different actions arising from each individual school plan including:
- Additional patrols from Police Scotland and Renfrewshire Community Safety Officers
 - Schools contacting parents/carers via newsletter/social media
 - New banners being designed and issued
 - Supporting schools to develop a 'school parking pledge' (Copy attached as Appendix 1)
 - Schools being considered for 'Walk Once a Week' funding
 - Attendance at safety sessions/inductions for new pupils
 - Refurbishment of road markings and lines
 - Review of school access arrangements
- 3.5 Each School and Parent Council is supported in the ways that they feel will have the best impact with a package of measures that they agree. Feedback from the school and parents is used to try and tackle issues noted on a daily basis. It is important for the success of the programme that the Council and the Police are not seen to be forcing their opinion or solution on school communities and that parents and the wider community are actively involved in improving the situation at their school.
- 3.6 As action plans are rolled out behaviours have been observed to change at least for a short period of time. However, there are ongoing issues with irresponsible parking and driver behaviour around some schools. When Police and Renfrewshire Community Safety Officers are in attendance, parking and driver behaviour is noted to be markedly better.
- 3.7 The school parking campaign has meant the school, Parent Council and community feel more involved in trying to tackle irresponsible parking. The school parking pledge has been very well received and allows children to help drive home the message by ensuring that parents and carers adhere to the good practice they agreed to when signing the pledge.
- 3.8 As well as targeting parking, air quality has been raised as a concern and efforts have been made to remind parents and carers of the need to switch off their engines and prevent unnecessary idling and the new banners tackle this as well as irresponsible parking.
-

4. School Exclusion Zone Pilots

- 4.1 Irresponsible parking around schools is not only an issue in Renfrewshire, it is noted to be an issue across Scotland. Colleagues in the City of Edinburgh Council have introduced exclusion zones around certain schools and Glasgow City Council are currently consulting on doing likewise around certain schools.
- 4.2 The £0.1M funding awarded to tackle this issue will enable the recruitment of additional staff to work on this programme.

- 4.3 Officers will review streets around particular schools and pilot the potential closure of streets around schools at certain times. This will not be feasible at all schools and a pilot will be undertaken initially at a number of schools in Renfrewshire. The schools chosen to be included within the initial pilot will be based on the following criteria:
- geographical spread
 - the school's location on the road network
 - good infrastructure and provision for displaced traffic
 - historical evidence of high car use on the school journey
 - high level of congestion at school gates
 - historical evidence of complaints regarding school zone safety and school travel
 - number of permits required and number of residents affected by change
- 4.4 The proposal will entail closing roads to vehicular traffic, except cycles and emergency vehicles each day during the school term for 30 minutes at the beginning of school and 45 minutes at the end of school. Schools with gates onto main roads which serve as bus or emergency service routes will not be considered as the impact of diverting high volumes of traffic through adjacent residential streets could create additional safety issues. This will reduce the number of suitable schools to those with entrances on routes with no or limited through traffic.
- 4.5 A widespread consultation will require to be undertaken with the school, Parent Council, Elected Members and local residents to assess if the proposal at a particular school is feasible. Police Scotland will also be an important consultee as they are the only agency that can take enforcement action if someone enters the zone when it is closed as that is a 'moving vehicle offence'.
- 4.6 An appropriate Traffic Regulation Order will require to be created and put in place to allow the scheme to be set up and any relevant lines and signage will be installed to allow enforcement to be undertaken. It should be noted that it can be time consuming to complete the process. Clear signage will be required to advise drivers of the zones both at the entrance but also potentially at the approach to a closure zone. Residents within the zones will be provided with a permit to allow them to enter and exit zones during the restricted times.
- 4.7 In developing proposed road closure pilots, care will be taken to ensure that children attending the school are not put at more risk by closing streets - for example ensuring that the proposed street closure does not mean they are being dropped off further away with a requirement to cross busier roads. Consultation with the school community as well as the local residents will be a key part of the process.

- 4.8 In addition to undertaking this traffic management work in the neighbourhood of the pilot schools these schools and others across Renfrewshire will continue to be supported with an action plan based on the current model and including appropriate interventions and support such as:

- Additional patrols from Police Scotland and Renfrewshire Community Safety Officers
- Schools contacting parents/carers via newsletter/social media
- New banners being designed and issued
- Supporting schools to develop a 'school parking pledge' (Copy attached as Appendix 1)
- Schools being considered for 'Walk Once a Week' funding
- Attendance at safety sessions/inductions for new pupils
- Refurbishment of road markings and lines where required
- Review of school access arrangements

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The funding committed on 28 March 2019 of £0.1M will enable the development and implementation of this proposal.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning**

Renfrewshire is Safe – By looking to reduce irresponsible parking around schools, it will ensure children are safe when getting to and from school.
4. **Legal** – All legal aspects of changing access to Roads is being considered in conjunction with Legal Services.
5. **Property/Assets** – None
6. **Information Technology** – None
7. **Equality & Human Rights**
(a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website
8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** – There is potential in closing roads for certain times that the problem is simply relocated. Care requires to be taken to ensure that child safety is not compromised by closing certain roads.

- 11. **Privacy Impact** – None
- 12. **CoSLA Policy Position** – Not applicable

List of Background Papers

None

OR/MC
13 May 2019

Author: Oliver Reid, Head of Communities and Public Protection.
Email: oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gov.uk

School Parking Pledge



Dear Parent/Carer,

Our school is launching a Parking Pledge.

Schools across Renfrewshire face problems every day caused by irresponsible parking.

We are looking for all parents/carers to help us tackle the issue.

By making the pledge, your family will support Renfrewshire's schools to reduce issues around the school by stopping irresponsible parking (including on School Keep Clear markings).

We also encourage healthier ways of travelling to school in the morning by promoting walking, cycling and scooting to school.

If you are willing to sign up to the parking pledge, please return the slip below.



Our school would like your family to join us and help promote the following activities:

- ✓ Our family will always **park sensibly**, and never on the 'School Keep Clear' zig-zag lines, within 10 metres of a junction or on double yellow lines.
- ✓ Our family will only drive to school when necessary—at all other times, we will **travel by foot, bike or scooter**.
- ✓ Our family will always take care and keep within the limits when in the '**20mph**' school zone.
- ✓ Our family will always take care and look out for other **pedestrians and cyclists**.
- ✓ Our family will always **respect other residents** in our community by not parking over driveways or on pavements, which can cause access problems.



We commit to the School Parking Pledge

Child/Children's name

Child's class

Parent/Carer name

Signature



Renfrewshire
Council

