

## Appendix 1

Dear sir,

I'm writing in response to a post I saw on Wolverhampton Today's Facebook page and have some comments about unsafe parking around schools. I live on Mill Lane in Wednesfield, right around the corner from D'Eyncourt Primary School.

Some of the parking in the area during school pick-up/drop off periods is appalling and incredibly dangerous. On Mullet Road where the school is based people often park on both sides of the road, on the footpath where pedestrians are trying to walk with children and partly on the road which often makes it very difficult for other road users to drive past. The school gates are based at a bend in the road, and with visibility and road space reduced it becomes difficult and dangerous for drivers to pass safely through, especially as many parents choose to park on the yellow lines without consideration for others.

Thankfully Mill Lane is wider than Mullet Road, but that doesn't mean we're safe from dangerous parking. Parents picking children up from school often park on Mill Lane, sometimes safely, but often with no consideration of others. A few months ago, cars had been parked on both sides of the road and a large coach was driving down the road, which at any time other than school pickup time would have been perfectly safe. The coach was unable to fit through the small gap left by parked cars and since cars had been driving behind it and had to stop, the coach had nowhere to go. Cars driving in the opposite direction towards the coach decided to fully mount the footpath, even further than the grass verge to where pedestrians, including children, were passing by. The coach was forced to wait until the inconsiderate parents returned to their car before it could continue its journey.

Parents going to the school often park in front of dropped kerbs, blocking in residents and making it impossible for them to return to or leave their properties. Though this is not a direct safety issue, it makes it dangerous when people desperately want to leave their homes and have to either attempt to leave their properties through limited space and with reduced visibility to the rest of the road and oncoming traffic, which is dangerous or be stuck inside their homes. Additionally, in case of emergency residents would be unable to leave their properties until drivers returned to their parked vehicles.

Additionally, vehicles often park on the grass verge outside our home to pick up children from the school. Not only is this illegal, but it makes it difficult and dangerous for people to cross the road as their visibility is reduced. In the winter when people park on the grass and drive away quickly it becomes muddy and slippery, again making the area dangerous due to risk of falls. Authorities have contacted us to inform us that as the grass is located outside our property, we are responsible for maintaining the grass, though we are not the ones damaging it, however we are not allowed to place (visible and removable) obstacles on the grass to prevent illegal parking.

When parking, drivers often do not leave enough space between parked cars to allow drivers to give way to vehicles coming from the opposite direction, often parking across dropped accesses. I have experienced this situation myself where I have passed cars parked on my left, safely crossing the path of cars driving in the opposite direction. When I began this manoeuvre, there were no hazards or cars to give way to. However, because the row of parked cars was so long, a driver picking her children up from school began to drive towards me, despite me clearly having nowhere to pull in. Instead of waiting for me to continue passing through the hazard, I (and the cars stopped behind me) were forced to reverse back where we had come from with limited visibility and very little space down a busy road. Annoyingly I received verbal abuse from the driver, despite the fact that she

created the dangerous situation by not giving way to traffic that had already entered the hazard. However, this hazard would not have been present if dangerous parking near the school had been restricted.

Parking around schools is a very serious issue that we have attempted to raise with the local authorities and the local school, neither of whom took any interest in our concerns. We were encouraged to 'phone the police' if people parked illegally outside our home to block our drive or if people parked dangerously near the school. I understand the police resources are already stretched and would probably be laughed away if we attempted to call the police to the daily issue of dangerous parking.

I understand that council resources and funding are low, but we have offered numerous suggestions to the authorities, including offers to pay for signs or to buy and plant trees along the grass verges to prevent people from mounting the footpath, however these offers have been declined. We have suggested signs saying, 'no parking' near houses surrounding the school but have been told there is no funding for this. When we took matters into our own hands and placed visible and movable obstacles along the verges to prevent drivers from mounting the footpath we were sent a letter from the council requesting we remove them in case drivers (who should not be mounting the footpath anyway) drove over them.

Perhaps a parking warden, just for an hour on the roads surrounding the school, would diffuse the issue. The money raised from on the stop fines could fund the employment of parking wardens.

It is also important for schools to be more involved with this situation, and to discourage parents from parking dangerously near the school. However, when we raised issues about unsafe parking to our local school, they passed us on to the council, who passed us on the police and essentially nothing was done.

Many parents drive to the school even though they only live a short distance away, perhaps to save time on their commute etc. but should be encouraged to walk with their children to encourage a healthy lifestyle. Again, schools could be more involved in encouraging activity and walking.

I understand that some parents live some distance away from the school making it difficult for them to walk to school and I believe that public transport can be very expensive in Wolverhampton, especially for families. Perhaps an arrangement could be made with transport companies and local buses for there to be some kind of 'parent and child pass,' valid specifically during the school rush hour, that is cheaper than ordinary tickets. Cheaper tickets would encourage families to use public transport and would reduce the number of cars on the roads during this already busy time.

I would be very interested in the outcome of the panel meeting this week and would appreciate if you could keep me aware of any updates made to parking policies around schools.

Thank you for your attention

Kind regards

Laura Walker

Sir

I have seen on face book about the parking by Schools ,in live in Foster Av

Coseley, 2 doors up from the Manor Primary School, and I have to say the parking in our street is absolutely horrendous, this goes on from 7-30 am when kids are dropped off for breakfast club till well after 9-0am, and then parents start arriving again anything from 2-20 in the afternoon to get parking space for the kids coming out at 3-20, but this can go on till well after 5-30 with after school clubs.

But it's not just the parking it's how and where they park, across people's drives so if residents want to get on or there drives they have no chance, not only that they will turn on or even park on residents drives ,I have even had people reverse across my lawn so had to resort to putting I am pole in the middle of my drive to try and stop the reversing which I have to say did the trick, I also put in an hedge across the lawn.

If you go out and approach them ask them to move the abuse you are subject to is disgusting and the language in front of the kids makes you cringe.

They also double park, half on and half off the footpath, so if a mother comes down with a pram she will have go onto the road to get through which is very dangerous because of all the traffic coming up or down.

We have had a couple of accidents where kids have run out into road of oncoming traffic and been knocked down.

We have approach the school but they really don't want to know, occasionally we have had a van with cameras on filming but unfortunately that isn't any deterrent.

What we could do with is probably double yellow lines but then that would panelise the residents when their families come to visit or the street being made into a one-way system where no one could reverse, or better still stop parking altogether because at the moment it is making everyone's life a misery.

I know also other streets around this area have the same problem, Etingshall Rd, Nally Drive and Kossuth Rd all have the same problems it's just an ongoing nightmare and we really need to have something done before there's a much bigger problem.

Many thanks for listening, and hope you can try to solve this problem.

Yours sincerely

Mr B Norman.