

Dear Claire,

At the last meeting of the Parent Council it was suggested that there may have been some traction in trying to see if some space could have been found within the multi-storey car park to facilitate parents to drop and walk their children to school.

Please find, as undernoted, the response I have received from our Roads and Transportation Services and their reasons for coming down against this idea.

Best regards.

“Dear Councillor Ross

Thank you for your email dated 5 September 2019 regarding the above.

The issue of inconsiderate parking at this and other school locations in South Lanarkshire remains an ongoing problem which manifests itself at the beginning and end of the school day.

The most appropriate way of addressing the ongoing issue of safety and congestion around schools and the surrounding roads is the development of a School Travel Plan. The aim of School Travel Plans is to encourage more sustainable modes of travel, such as walking and cycling, hence reducing congestion outside schools and increasing safety, improving health and environmental awareness, ultimately setting active travel patterns for life. The local context, including pupil travel patterns, is researched and presented in the Plan. This then allows appropriate solutions to be identified and targets for implementation to be set. The process puts the onus on pupils, parents and teachers to monitor the travel situation and to work with the Council’s School Travel Plan Co-ordinator to develop appropriate aims and identify targets and timescales for action.

The Plan is an active document with a monitoring regime included, so the progress of any measures can be followed, and new ones added as it continues to develop. Following your enquiry, the School Travel Plan Co-ordinator will contact the school to raise the issues you have highlighted and to offer further assistance.

I can confirm that Woodside Primary School completed their School Travel Plan and associated travel survey last year. The results of the survey was discussed with the School and the Junior Road Safety Officers in April 2019.

We will contact the School again to raise the issues you have highlighted and offer assistance. It is our intention to propose a ‘Park Smart Campaign’ to educate parents in relation to considerate parking and promote alternative travel modes.

With regards to the suggestion of reserving spaces at the Duke Street car park for school use, whilst this idea may seem like a solution in principle, it may prove difficult to identify vehicles parking for the school and may require a permit system. It would also be difficult to enforce the time period and it could be abused by people visiting the town centre or shopping area. Previous experience has also shown that park and stride car parks work well when they are closer to the school, with short distances to walk. The distance from the school to Duke Street car park is approximately 500 metres, which would take on average 7 minutes to walk. Due to this, it is unlikely this facility would be used for school parking.

We will continue to monitor the situation, identify other areas for parking and continue to liaise with the School regarding this matter.

I trust this is of assistance and explains the Councils position at this time.”

Caroline Skillen

PA to the Leader of the Council on behalf of

Councillor John Ross

Leader of the Council

Finance and Corporate Resources

Members' Services

South Lanarkshire Council

Almada Street

Hamilton ML3 0AA

Telephone: 01698454552

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