

Freshford Parish Council

13 November 2023

Highways & Transport Report

Freshford School Traffic Issues

The issues with traffic around the early morning and mid-afternoon school run was the third largest issue raised at the Public Meeting on 13 April 2022. Thus far, the initiative has been to work with the Governors to carry out transport surveys and newsletters to encourage more appropriate driving behaviour. Feedback by emails from residents and comments at the October PC meeting indicate that this hasn't worked.

I was asked to attend a meeting on 20 September by one of the School Governors, including BANES School Transport officer, BANES Traffic Engineer the Headteacher & a local resident. This group has formed the basis of a small working group to address the problem. The Problem Statement, already shared, is a means to achieve a shared understanding of the issue, the goals of the solution and the constraints. This has been shared with residents, councillors' and governors and feedback given.

Subsequently, we have had two Teams meetings, run by the Governors, firstly to understand more of one possible solution, School Street, and another a general catch-up. Another officer, Jon Legge, has been recruited by BANES (from Camden LBC) to work specifically on School Streets to carry out research of the candidate schools and advise the Council of the recommended site for a pilot. Freshford School is one of 5/6 schools that have expressed an interest. A School Street will involve a short closure of the street(s) close to the school, for which TMOs will be required. It will operate with volunteer staff and residents' will continue to access their properties. That research is still underway.

The other option being considered is Play Out, which is essentially a one-day trial of School Street, supported by BANES with a temporary TMO. This is very early days of consideration by the Governors' and staff.

The goals of the working group are a mix of actions that will induce better driver behaviour by the current parents, hopefully less cars. This may include car sharing, additional school buses, or even awards or competitions to encourage sustainable modes of transport. Training is also in the mix of solutions, via the children, which will be provided by BANES engineers. Anything that re-locates car parking away from the school will have an impact on the wider village, of which I am fully aware (hence it is a constraint).

The ownership of the issue wis with the School Governors, but with active participation of immediate residents, BANES officer responsible for transport to school, particularly Richard Pitman, and the Parish Council.

I am very happy if other councillors wish to be involved in the working group.

Pipehouse Lane

The section west of the A36 is in a poor state of repair. Earlier this year 15 potholes were fixed by BANES. Subsequently, I have reported and had fixed another pothole. I will keep the situation monitored and if necessary, arrange meeting with Traffic Inspector to ask the road to be relaid.