

Freshford Church School (FCS)

Traffic and Travel Meeting 20 September 2023 at 8:30am at Freshford School

– Draft Notes

Present: David Boardman – Road Safety Team BANES (DB), Julian Carpenter – Transport and Highways, Freshford Parish Council (JC), Stefan Chiffers – Senior Traffic Engineer for Freshford Area BANES (SC), Talia Kelly – Parent Governor (TK), Penny Murray – local resident (PM), Richard Pitman – School Travel Plan Officer BANES (RP), Andrew Wishart – headmaster of Freshford School (AW)

1. 9:00am: Introductions. Share observations and identify concerns.

- Speeding particularly in the roads leading away from the school out of the village.
- motorists speeding through the private road opposite the school to head off the Hinton Charterhouse school bus
- Rat-running –from the Warminster Road through to the B3108.
- Parking availability (lack of) and poor execution
- Congestion
- Motorists mounting pavements utilised by children and adults (observed by attendees walking on pavement)
- Impact on local residents (near misses and accidents described by residents)
- Massive increase in traffic around school pick up and drop off times
- Safety of pedestrians particularly school children and parents at these times
- Comments from parents saying they don't feel safe cycling, walking or scooting with children due to road safety concerns

In summary, consensus agreement that the status quo is not acceptable.

2. 9:20am: Availability of traffic data especially from recent road closures.

- JC has some data on speeding where radar speed signs have been implemented.
- Discussion around the usefulness of data from recent Park Corner Road closures. **Sharing this data would still build up a picture as this effectively created the equivalent of a school street – JC/SC?**
- PM explained that the Park Corner closure impacted the community shop adversely (NB this was a long duration closure over many weeks).
- Recent school travel survey link

3. 9:30am: BANES representatives to share brief overview of measures adopted around other schools in the county.

- RP discussed Chew Stoke Church School's successes in encouraging sustainable travel (platinum accreditation through the Modeshift STARS initiative). TK to contact Deputy Head Vicki Hennessey for advice.

- AW explained that initiatives relying on voluntary behaviour changes e.g. walking buses had been trialled unsuccessfully at FCS.
- BANES reps (DB, RP) to contact South Glos road safety education programme for site specific lessons with Freshford pupils on road and travel safety. Lead up time currently post-Christmas.
- RP could provide uncalibrated speed cameras for children to police and monitor driving behaviours outside school. **Considerations: impact on school timetable/adult supervision and safe implementation of 'mini-police' model.**
- Consider staggered school starts and pick-ups as trialled in many schools during Covid (currently Paragon uses this model). Challenges include impact on school staff time/resources and practicalities for families with siblings in different year groups.

4. 9:40am: identify next steps and AOB.

- TK and AW to review/update school travel plan.
- Analyse/collect more data about rat-running v. school generated traffic (SC/DB)
- Discussions around feasibility of running a footway and turning on The Tying so children are no longer on the road/away from cars
- Explore parent-managed school bus options specifically the viability of the Hinton Charterhouse bus to include children from neighbouring areas.
- Explore the possibility of a school street option – need v. ease of execution (boundaries, co-ordinated with school and other buses etc). This is currently a very fledgling programme within BANES. **RP to investigate the possibility that FCS could be a candidate for the trial.**
- Trial a ['Playing Out'](#) session to inform risk/benefit ratio for FCS (RP)
- Consider the impact of an [Experimental Traffic Order](#) at FCS (SC, DB, RP)
- JC to explore parking alternatives in parallel to the school street option. It was noted that school streets can lead to traffic evaporation as they can induce sustainable and active travel habits in particular populations.
- **RP to contact John Legge (School Streets Initiative BANES) for possible attendance at Freshford Parish Council Meeting 09/10/23. Discuss with JC.**
- TK and AW to plan parental consultation/discussion on school streets with John Legge.
- DB and SC to explore impacts on and alternative routes for traffic if a school street was imposed.
- **Post meeting note:** SC/DB/RP to clarify at next meeting how the school integrates with Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP)

Proposed date of next meeting: Wednesday 1st November, 2023