

Hampton Prep and Pre-Prep/Hampton Prep Neighbours Association

Liaison Group Meeting November 8th 2017

Held at: 1 Wensleydale Gardens, Hampton

Present for Hampton Prep Neighbours' Association (HPNA):

Dr Nigel Kingsley (co-chair), Mr Derek Sanders (co-chair), Mrs Kay Waddell (Secretary), Mrs Diana Tolfree (Committee member).

Present for Hampton Prep and Pre-Prep School:

Mr Tim Smith (Headmaster Hampton Prep and Pre-Prep), Mr Andrew Munday (Hampton School Governor and Prep Liaison), Ms Verity Moria (Deputy Bursar Hampton School).

Representing London Borough of Richmond: Cllr. Suzette Nicholson.

1. **Ratification of minutes from last meeting.** This was not discussed explicitly, but a final version had been agreed previously.
2. **Progress on actions from last meeting.** TS has received pictures of bad parking by school parents from two residents – one in Gloucester Road and one in Wensleydale Road. The school has spoken to both drivers and TS urges that this system of monitoring continues. Parking patrols continue to monitor the situation and TS confirmed that the school will encourage parents not to linger when they drop off and collect their children.

It was also agreed that the schedule for future Liaison Meetings will be set for the whole year with one every term – the next one to be hosted by Hampton in the Spring Term. VM agreed to suggest dates for 2019

Action: VM

3. **Distribution of School Newsletter.** It was agreed that there will be a wider distribution of the publication to include the whole of Gloucester Road, Wensleydale Road, Scott's Drive, Wensleydale Gardens and Carlisle Road.

Action: TS

4. **Status of current Travel Plan Application.** SN said that the Application will go to a Planning Committee meeting in the New Year and permission is likely. People will get a chance to speak. SN said that Anita Vedi will contact all parties when it goes to committee. AM reaffirmed that they have complied with the agreed Methodology as laid down by the Local Authority. NK pointed out that there were concerns about how data from the survey had been analysed. For example, conclusions had been drawn using data from one survey day, ignoring the second day from which a different conclusion would have been drawn. Another example was the use of different stretches of road compared to those used in the original Planning Applications, resulting in lower figures for parking occupancy. AM reiterated that the Travel Plan adhered rigidly to Methodology and was sanctioned and is in accordance with the Local Authority guidelines. NK asked what mechanisms existed to provide feedback about these concerns into those conducting the next survey and analysing it. DT said that one person had questioned how the survey was being conducted ie. by a man who had been walking round the block. AM pointed out that Hampton paid for the survey he also mentioned that this year different consultants may be used to process the raw survey results. TS said that as taxpayers, the residents should complain and have the right to voice an opinion. . AM said that there are rules

about the time limits for councils to announce their acceptance/rejection of planning submissions, and in view of the delay by the Planning Department in dealing with the May 2017 filing of the Travel Plan the School could have served a “Deemed Consent” notice. However, it have not done this as it was aware that the issue was contentious and Hampton wished to be seen to act fairly. He was concerned that the school is always seen in a bad light by some and it is justifiably unhappy that that is so. SN will also get involved in checking on any problems connected to the Methodology. Hampton used contractors approved by the council.

5. **Are more Planning Applications in the pipeline?** The question of possible increases in pupil numbers was raised. It was stated that every year the numbers are submitted for approval by the Council. NK inquired about the timing of the process, since the “Application” stating numbers was decided upon after the School had offered places to pupils. What would happen if a change in numbers was rejected? AM confirmed that they can’t increase the numbers without first getting consent. TS said the school never has more pupils than is permitted.

6. **Parking and congestion.** SN confirmed that she’d received a complaint that a parent had parked across a resident’s driveway on October 6th at 08.10. SN wasn’t able to establish whether this driver was the parent of a student from Hampton Prep or from Carlisle Infants. She mentioned again the Richmond-Council-funded “illegal-parking enforcement hot-line” on 020 8744 0462. NK offered to place this on the HPNA website. *Action: NK*

7. **Coach Parking in Wensleydale Road.** DT Expressed concern about the large school coach that often parks i.e. waits for students at the end of the school day; it waits in or near Wensleydale Road or Barlow Road. She has witnessed several near misses. Whilst she has no objections to the use of a coach, she is concerned about its size and where it is often being parked, sometimes in Barlow Road where she believes it sometimes creates a safety hazard. SN asked DT if, in accordance with SN’s historic suggestion (to Council Engineers) that it should park and wait next to the long garden wall just off Wensleydale in Barlow Road?
DT added that the Redcotts care-home has closed-down and planning permission has been submitted for three detached houses; this is already adding to the parking and congestion problems around the junction of Barlow & Wensleydale roads. AM said the coach is a LEOLINE coach that goes between Hampton School, LEH and Hampton Prep. It is used as part of a Sustainable Travel scheme which requires the capacity of this full-size coach. If a mini bus was also to be used solely for Hampton Prep, it would add another vehicle into the equation. NK mentioned that there was trade off between safety, cost and environmental impact
AM the meeting that there had been a request submitted to the Council about two years ago to get a special restricted-parking-bay to be marked out for a coach and for a parking restriction on the western side of the road to coincide with the coach parking time period so that it could park in Wensleydale Road at a specified time; and the school has been waiting ever since for the outcome.
DT said that if it was restricted to 20-30 minutes parking after school than that would surely be more acceptable, but often the coach is parked for an hour or more – and the engine is often left running.
AM asked for dates and timings re any “early arrival and overstay” ie. a “long wait” to be reported to him so that he can counsel / re-instruct the coach company.

AM and VM have also asked the Council to amend the times on the signage outside the two schools ie. the time that defines when the “no parking/waiting/stopping zig-zags should be

active. It is believed that the Council reluctant ie. they are not prepared to set different times for individual schools. NK hoped that neighbours would report incidents involving the coaches to AM.

Action re spotting & reporting problems re parking in Barlow/Wensleydale Roads: DT

SN agreed to check the status of the School's request request for time-limited coach parking spaces. *Action: SN*

8. **Headmaster's Bulletins.** TS said that when he writes the Bulletin he makes the point two or three times a year to remind parents to park considerately and has sent a personal reminders to specific groups of parents. He is also recommending carshare; this was highlighted by a recent fundraising evening at Hampton Prep when parents were encouraged to park within the school site and encouraged to car-share. TS also reiterated that for specific events they encourage the use of public transport.
9. **Pupils' Perfect Parking Protocol.** TS stated that their students do try to influence their parents regarding considerate parking – car stickers are being used and children can get rewards. AM has been impressed by the pupil-led initiatives on safety and sustainable travel. The JSOs are no doubt inspired by Deputy Head Dean . DT mentioned that Twickenham Prep has implemented a "gate-post sticker/sign scheme" which reminds parents to please park considerately; TS/VM agreed to contact Twickenham Prep to learn more. TS thanked DT & KW for this idea and offered that any implementation could be funded by the school. *Action TS/VM*
10. **Hampton Prep and Pre-Prep STARS.** TS explained that STARS is an award scheme by TFL which recognises all the projects currently underway in what has been named "A School of Excellence" for the work done by the Junior Safety Officers creating and running initiatives on safety and sustainable travel. On December 6th School Deputy Head Dean Richards and some pupils will attend a luncheon for the pupils to receive their award.
11. **Letter in response to the 'Autumn Newsletter.** Topic not discussed explicitly.
12. **Impolite Communication from some residents to School staff.** TS Complained that some passing drivers (suspected by the school to be local-residents, though there is no evidence) use foul language and display rude gestures as they drive past the gates of Hampton Prep in the morning. He said that members of the public are on occasion very rude to Hampton Prep staff. TS underlined the plight of the ladies who work in the school office being subjected on occasions to very rude telephone calls from residents. AM added that everyone should be considerate and not berate staff. KW said that the office staff should ask for name address and 'phone number before any calls are accepted and put through (to discourage rudeness). TS pointed out the bizarre incident involving an angry call from a Gloucester Road resident about the cones prior to the Summer fair. When he returned the call, all knowledge of the complaint was denied! DS suggested that the School should implement Calling Line Identity on their telephone system – at least on the 'phones in the Secretarial Offices - so that the school stands a better chance of identifying the real telephone number of their callers. VM asked that with a Xmas fair approaching, should the school once again put cones out on the road ie. to restrict parking and create passing places? Three choices... do nothing, implement advance warning signs, or coning? TS underlined that last Summer they used cones. It was agreed that this time they will trial the use of early warning road signs to pre-warn the public re the date of the Xmas fair on December 2. DT asked if the schools' parents could also - this time - be directed to park and gain

access to the school through the Carlisle Park entrance on that Saturday? TS said he would communicate this suggestion to all parents. **Action TS**

AM expressed concern that a few of the comments within the objections to the Travel Plan application posted on the Council website are highly contentious. As an example, he pointed to remarks concerning the “hands-up” travel survey and data gathering, and reiterated that the school does not manipulate these surveys to create false data. He stated: “I have been in communication with the Chief Executive of the council about the comments. People must realise that whereas sensible-yet-critical submissions might be welcome, those who write damaging inflammatory accusations must surely understand that the writers are not immune from having action taken against them if the school’s reputation is in danger of being damaged. He went on “You would think we were guilty of either clubbing seals, or chopping down rainforests”. We are a charity running a school, and we really would like to think that our neighbours appreciate what we do and treat us with some respect for what we are doing”.

NK made the point that maybe the school should consider: why might these people get so angry? Hopefully the continuing presence of the HPNA does help to alleviate some of the problems. TS said that the action points in this document will show that the school does listen and take actions.

13. TS said that there had been a nasty incident on October 6th involving a house on Gloucester Road: as the Prep School children returned from their Harvest Festival church service at St. Mary’s Church, an aerosol-can was hurled out of a 1st floor window into the path of the children – it fortunately missed the children. The police were called. TS produced the can in question.
14. VM was asked about an incident involving the school’s summer camp in Gloucester Road on August 19th 2017. Acting on information, armed police officers arrived at a residential property bordering school land and, because they asked, were permitted access to school land in order to carry out their duties. However there was no threat to children and police have assured the school that there are no on-going concerns.

The meeting concluded at 8pm.

KW/NK/DS

November 2017