



HIGH HAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs V J Young (Clerk), 26 Shapwick Road, Westhay, Glastonbury, Somerset,
BA6 9TU (Tel 01458 860827)

Mrs J Rosser
High Ham C of E Primary School
High Ham
Langport
Somerset
TA19 9BY

30 April 2021

Dear Mrs Rosser,

Indiscriminate/dangerous Parking around the School and Village Green areas

I am writing to you on behalf of High Ham Parish Council following concerns raised, and subsequent discussions held, by councillor's at their 27 April 2021 Council meeting. I fully appreciate that many attempts have been made by you in the past to address safety concerns regarding indiscriminate/dangerous parking around the school at drop-off and pick-up times and the Parish Council are grateful for your assistance and willingness to address the concerns raised in the past, particularly with the number of communications forwarded to parents and guardians via letters and social media platforms.

The Parish Council also fully appreciate that there is no statutory obligation on your part to engage with this matter, however, fully acknowledge that you, like the Parish Council, would want to do whatever possible to prevent an accident occurring with the potential loss of life or serious injury to a member of the school community, local resident or someone passing through the village. Your past support regarding the narrow centre lanes running through the village green being provided with lockable bollards either end to prevent parking was also appreciated as being seen as a positive safety measure. Additionally it is fully acknowledged how frustrating this is for you as well as the Parish Council to have to continually address this matter, even more so at this time when you and your colleagues have additional challenges to meet with the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic still very much with us.

On Tuesday 27 April, the situation was particularly dangerous at pick-up time, despite the staggered timings approach being taken at this time, with cars being parked on the main route through the village on the edge of the village green and also some cars being parked beyond the green towards Manor Farm. This, essentially, made safe passage through the village, in either direction, virtually impossible especially for farm and other large vehicles.

The Avon and Somerset Police Beat Manager, Sgt. Andy Stuart, recently attended one of the Parish Council's virtual meetings and parking around the school was one of the key areas discussed with him. Sgt. Stuart confirmed that he would attend the school in order to gain an appreciation of the problem and also take whatever enforcement action was necessary if dangerous practices were observed. Obviously, all interested parties would prefer a resolution to this matter with the full 'buy in' and cooperation of parents and guardians and a change to parking behaviour being evidenced without police involvement but if this is the only way to change behaviour resulting in safer conditions for everyone then this is a route that will have to be considered in the future.

To conclude, the Parish Council would be very grateful if you are able to share this letter from them, by the most appropriate means, with your parents and guardians so that all interested parties can fully acknowledge that a very real problem exists as a result of the indiscriminate/dangerous parking practices prevailing. If everyone takes 'ownership' of this issue, it is believed that, collectively, we will all be playing our part in preventing the potential for harm to be caused to an individual or group and this is something we must all do our very best to prevent.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Young (Clerk)
High Ham Parish Council