



**NEWLAND HOUSE SCHOOL
AND LOCAL COMMUNITY MEETING**

Friday 15th October 2021 at 9.15 am

Prep School Hall

1. Welcome from the Head

Chris Skelton, the Head welcomed everyone to the meeting. The attendees included local residents, staff, parents, pupils and Governors. Apologies for this meeting were received from three local councillors, who unfortunately already meeting scheduled at this time.

2. Format of Newland House School and Local Community meetings

Mr Skelton said that this meeting is the first in a series of meetings designed to foster open communication between the school community and the wider community with the surrounding roads. Hearing the thoughts of all of the key stakeholders in the community is a vital part of this open dialogue and he acknowledged that as a school we could have done better in engaging with the community. The meetings will be termly and to allow people with differing working and family patterns, we will host them at different times so the meeting next term will be after school. The proposed format of the meetings will be attendees submitting agenda items in advance of the meeting via email to Mrs Bell and the agenda being circulated in advance of the meeting. He would facilitate the discussion by introducing the agenda item to provide context and will then through it open to the audience for comments or questions

3. Parking issues during School drop off and pick up

Mr Skelton said that concerns around parking at drop-off and pick-up had been submitted. This had been brought to his attention by various residents particularly on Waldegrave Park, but also on Fieldend, Teddington Park Road and Cambridge Road. This had included on occasion photographs of cars. Some residents reported that parents visiting the school park over and sometimes in residents' driveways, on single and double yellow lines and in private parking space or spaces reserved by residents. Some residents also felt that when confronting car owners who have parked in this way, they are ignored or replied to rudely.

As a school, we have worked hard to encourage our families to use more sustainable forms of transport with some success. Last September following the first lockdown, we had to double the number of cycle and scooter racks available at the front of the school because of the increase in popularity and many of those parents have given up their cars. This is an ongoing process and our pupils are also part of this programme. A Year 8 boys shared what he and his friends are planning on doing.

An additional related question on parking came in which was out of the School's 100 plus staff how many come to school by car? 44% of staff come by car but not all full-time or every day. The majority of these come from outside the TW1 and TW2 postcodes.

A resident explained that the first 20 years that he had lived on Waldegrave Park had been fine, but that during the last 20 years the road had been destroyed by the expansion of the school, in particular at the end of the day. Parents arrive up to an hour before pick up time and leave their engines running and park across driveways. Parents are aggressive when asked to move. Dangerous behaviours such as loading from the street side and parking on double yellow lines at the pinch points had been observed. The external summer camp had placed signs over the reflective bollards and had left signs obstructing the pavements. Coaches arrive for sports on Saturdays and again leave their engines idling for up to an hour. Parents also park across driveways during evening events. He suggested that home school transport should become the norm as in Canada. He also commented that the road was a 'rat run' encouraged by sat nav. Also cyclists should not ride on pavements.

Mr Skelton responded that the school was currently looking at the location of families to determine if alternative school bus routes could be offered.

A Parent commented that lived near to another school where the introduction of the CPZ had a positive impact on parking. It was also suggested that a 'lollipop person' could have a positive impact on the behaviour of drivers.

A couple of parents expressed their dismay at the poor behaviour of a minority of parents and that they stood behind the residents in this regard.

A resident suggested that residents call Richmond parking wardens on 020 8744 0462. They will dispatch a warden on a moped and can arrive very quickly to with a parking enforcement and fixed penalty fine.

A resident asked if the school had achieved the 12% reduction in cars required to achieve the Gold level in the TfL STARS (Sustainable Travel: Active, Responsible, Safe). Mr Skelton explained that the school submits its travel data together with other initiatives and that the award was made by Richmond based on its criteria.

The school is working on its travel plan within the STARS framework

Mr Skelton expressed concern at near misses.

4. Potential impact of CPZ in Waldegrave Park

Mr Skelton said that Waldegrave Park will be a CPZ at some point in the future. Currently residents in the street are being consulted on whether this will be between 10:00 and 12:00 or 10:00 and 4:30pm as per Teddington Park Road. There had been a question about the potential impact and this would depend on which time slot is decided on. Looking at the plans for the road, it will be made up of resident permit holder bays between particular times, mixed bays- resident permit holders and pay to park bays and then single yellow lines. No students from St. Mary's will be allowed to apply for permits. Should the 10:00 to 12:00 timescale be decided on, this would be beneficial for parking on the road because without the students, parents at the school would have far greater parking space availability. Clearly if the extended period was chosen, then pick-up would be complicated and this would lead to parents having to make difficult decisions about where to park. From a staff point of view, the CPZ will prove to be a real issue as staff need parking throughout the day. The school has some parking on-site, has a small number of permits on Teddington Park Road and will be applying for business permits on Waldegrave Park. It was likely though that some staff will end up with a harder journey to work.

There were differing views from attendees. A Resident expressed concern that traffic volume could increase if parking space was freed up by students not being able to park, another resident reflected that if students couldn't park it would increase the opportunity for parents to park considerably. A Fieldend resident was concerned that parents would use their communal areas as a car park. One resident thought that the school was in favour of a CPZ, however, Mr Skelton expressed concern that the CPZ would impact staff who needed to travel to work by car.

A parent observed that there were a significant number of cars that were left on the road for many days and that a CPZ might reduce this. They further commented that parents were increasingly cycling and walking and that a greater availability for parking was unlikely to induce parents to revert to their cars.

A resident who was also a parent commented that traffic control cameras could be installed to reduce traffic that just drives through and that this had been used in some busy areas of Kew. One resident said that they would prefer a CPZ 8am – 4.30pm whilst another resident commented that the CPZ was to assist the school.

One parent suggested that a message from children to parents would influence road safety.

A pupil expressed concern that the excellent standard of education at the school would be impacted if some teachers couldn't continue to work at the school due to difficulties in parking.

5. Richmond anti idling campaign

Mr Skelton reported that the school was part of the Richmond Campaign and had on occasion put the sign up at the front of the school. This would be put up again.

6. Noise generated by the school

Mr Skelton said that some residents are unhappy with levels of noise generated by the school. In particular, the noise of the children in the Pre-Prep playground at break and lunchtimes was deemed to be too loud as was the voice of a football coach who runs an afterschool club. In addition other concerns about noise have included last summer term when the school reopened after lockdown, singing lessons were not allowed inside and were occasionally done at the back of the site and also the outdoor Proms in the playground concert. The school undertook a professional acoustic survey this time last year and this measured the noise level in various locations and the conclusions from this was that replacement of the existing fencing with acoustic fencing would not make a discernible difference to the neighbours.

One resident mentioned that noise was also unacceptable from the outdoor classroom. A Fieldend resident and another resident both commented that the noise appeared to be amplified by the confined space and the proximity of buildings. One of these residents believed that the school disrespects the views of neighbours and is hostile. They also wanted a higher acoustic wall. He also asserted that the school was in breach of planning in respect of a wall.

The Head Boy asked if it was possible for the children to make less noise.

A discussion around the times that the outdoor space was used and it was concluded that with break times and timetabled sport the areas were in used for a majority of the school day.

A resident commented that the activities after the school day were to provide day care for parents.

A Parent took exception at this comment and said that school is a joyful and happy time and that her children opted to stay for these additional activities. A Parent commented that the outdoor singing was awesome after a period of these activities being restricted.

Mr Skelton stated that he and Mrs Bell would discuss acoustic fencing further.

A resident added that he was frustrated by the response of Governors at the school

7. Foxes

Mr Skelton said that as in many London locations, foxes are all around the area and they cause a nuisance primarily through their faeces but also digging and noise. A number of fox holes are located in one of the school properties and initially someone was brought in to try to remedy the situation but to little avail. More recently, these holes have been filled in and will continue to be so with the aim of highlighting to the foxes that this is not a good place to have their home and hopefully take their families elsewhere. There was a concern that dead foxes recently have been

found apparently poisoned and I would like to confirm that this was not as a consequence of something that the school had done.

A parent mentioned the RSPCA fox project which offered advice and a helpline.

8. School impact

Mr Skelton said that this was an item that he had included on the agenda because in amongst the negative things that had been mentioned about the school, there were a number of positives too. He had mentioned already that the school employs over 100 people and sustains them and their families. The associated national insurance and tax paid by both the school and employees was not insignificant. In addition, we have around 450 happy children at the school who enjoy coming and we hope will leave us as well rounded, well-educated young people who will go on to have a positive impact on society. He expects that local businesses on Waldegrave Road benefit to from families having a quick pizza or popping to the newsagent on their way home. The school's positive reputation over many years had played its own small part in making this part of South-West London such a desirable place to live in.

9. Any other business

- Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 3rd March at 5pm. This will be advertised on the school website.

Mr Skelton agreed to post a follow up from today's meeting on the school website by the end of the Autumn Term

- School Travel Plan

A question had been received: The Gold accreditation under the STARS system requires a 12% reduction in cars visiting the school. Can you please provide documentary evidence that this reduction has been achieved? Mr Skelton responded that in 2018/19 we as usual submitted our travel data and details of our initiatives and based on our submission, Richmond awarded us a gold star. The evidence for the number of parents and staff driving each day is done via an annual hands-up survey.

- Fireworks night

Mr Skelton announced that the annual fireworks night would be on Saturday 6th November starting at 5:30pm. He had heard that there are far fewer displays around at the moment and so hoped that people at the meeting would enjoy having a professional display on their doorstep.