

Notes of a Public meeting held on 17th July 2015, 7.30pm at The Willow Centre, Cringleford

In attendance: Jonathan Taylor (Highways) (JT), DC Christopher Kemp (in the Chair), CC Judith Virgo and 65 members of the public

DC Kemp opened the meeting and explained that there are four main issues to be considered:

1. Dragonfly Lane - buses not being able to negotiate the road due to parked cars, particularly at certain times of day.
2. Newmarket Road – long stay parking issues
3. Colney Lane / Harts Lane – school short term parking issues
4. Gurney Lane / Colney Lane – long stay hospital and UEA parking.

JT explained that Highways have been given the remit to ensure that busses can reach stops within Roundhouse Park. Under the section 106 agreement a bus route was agreed between SNC planners and the developers. Buses stop within the estate every 20 minutes between 7am and 7pm then hourly from 7pm until 11pm.

Highways formally advertised their proposals in May 2015 and received 12 letters of objection. Suggestions from the public included road widening, permit parking, single yellow lines and the ability for Willow Centre car park to be used by school parents.

Colney Lane / Gurney Lane have different issues. Double yellow lines were added to Gurney Lane in 2010 but problems still persist and the problem was moved further down the road. Highway proposals are primarily designed to give safety around junctions for pedestrians and school children. The formal consultation took place at the same time and there was a letter drop to all residents of Colney Lane and the side roads. There were 16 letters, mostly asking for more restrictions particularly along Gurney Lane and Colney Lane.

JT explained that he was listening to all comments and trying to ascertain what the majority of residents want to move forwards within the available budget. There is funding for one final round of consultation and a decision must be made before April or the funding will be lost.

Comments regarding Roundhouse Park

- Why have a bus service through the estate?
- A resident had completed a traffic survey in the past. There is an empty car park at the Willow Centre and people are parking in the road.
- The Parish Council are requested to formalise parent parking on the Willow Centre car park. Possibly a 'drive-through' facility for parents at school times.
- Why not have permit parking? JT said that this was a SNC issue but would have cost implications as it must be self financing and so could be expensive for residents. It could not be considered until the whole estate is complete.
- Having double yellow lines along the spine road will force more parking on the narrower side roads. This will make them unpassable for emergency vehicles.
- Why not make Dragonfly Lane a one way street with parking on one side. It would increase parking and enable the flow of traffic? JT concerned that it would cause a lot of signs.
- The roads have not been adopted so no restrictions will be applied for the time being.

- Residents asked for a survey of the bus usage. A resident uses the bus and says that there are quite a lot of people who do use the busses.
- 'The lines are being put in for the benefit of bus companies not residents'
- Now the school has moved to Roundhouse Park parents from 'old' Cringleford are forced into cars because of the distance to the school when they would rather walk.
- Limited parking will mean that residents are in a race to get home from work to get to the spaces. People will be parking on the mini roundabout. Restricted parking hours would be a better solution.
- Support for double yellow lines on the mini roundabout. Bus drivers often speed and sometimes go on the wrong side of the reservation to save time.
- School parking is a problem, why not change the bus timetable to alleviate busses during school hours.
- Install a one way system around the school
- Have smaller busses through the estate which would be able to fit better than the very large double deckers busses which are currently in use.
- Why not change the S106 need for bus access? Who can do this?
- Widen the road
- Put in parking bays
- Speed bumps
- There is a car park at the school which is not used. Encourage parents to use the school facility.

Comments regarding Colney Lane / Gurney Lane

- Yare Valley Drive has an average of 45 cars parked all day every day. Restricted parking for two hours only would allow dog walkers to use the area but prevent all day parking.
- Roads cannot be swept and bin lorries cannot get down the roads due to the cars parking there. CC Virgo to ensure roads are swept and drains are rodded.
- Suggestion to ban parking before 10.30am. This would not affect residents who have visitors but would stop people parking and walking to work.
- Parking in Gurney Lane means that cars must drive on the wrong side of the road in the path of oncoming vehicles in order to turn out onto the main road which is dangerous.
- School parking at the top of Harts Lane is a problem.
- Properties values are being reduced and it is very hard to sell houses as potential purchasers are put off by the cars parked outside all day.
- Any scheme could not be enforced on the private roads leading off Colney Lane.
- UEA and the hospital should be approached to help. JT said that they had been invited to comment on the consultation but had not done so. A member of hospital staff said that all staff have the free use of park and ride sites so there is no excuse to park in Cringleford.
- Yellow lines all along the road will not be aesthetically pleasing. Much better to have a restricted parking sign as you enter from the slip road from the A11. Children crossing signs would be useful and a pedestrian crossing.
- Access out of Water Lane is impossible at school drop of and collection times. Children using scooters rush down Harts Lane and are at risk of a fatal accident if they cannot stop before they reach the road. Double yellow lines and a pedestrian crossing would increase vehicles visibility at this point.

A unanimous vote suggested that the current Highways plans are not supported by the people attending the meeting.