

STEDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher

Wednesday 7th November 2018

Dear resident of School Lane,

Firstly, my apologies for the impersonal greeting and the note rather than a phone call – your telephone message was cut off before you were able to leave your telephone number and you did not leave your name.

I am also very sorry that the parking of parents collecting children from our school has caused you distress today and longer term is eroding the bank in the lane. As you may well know, parking has been an ongoing issue between the school and residents for many years. I periodically remind our school community about safe and considerate parking in the road and I will do this again, but this does not mean it will have the desired impact.

I am afraid that I do not have a member of staff that can come outside each day and police the lane and even if I did, we have absolutely no jurisdiction over the road and parking. Please may I ask that if you are concerned about inconsiderate or unsafe parking that you take down the registration number of the vehicle and report it to Sussex Police on the non-emergency number (111) or online. If you can take photos of the parking that may also help. This is the advice that I give to anyone who complains about school traffic. If enough people are complaining and it is about the same people, the police may take notice and begin speaking to these drivers or even sending out a police officer to observe and manage the situation.

I do not know if they village currently has a neighbourhood watch group but if they did, perhaps they could ask the community police officer to come to a meeting to discuss this and come up with potential strategies – I don't know for example if cones could be provided to stop people parking in certain areas at the worse times of the day?

Again, I am sorry that I cannot do more to resolve this problem. I will send out a letter to my school community to let them know a complaint has been made and to remind them about how they should be parking but I would strongly urge you to involve the police in this as I think that is the only way people will pay attention.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher



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8.11.18

Dear Mrs. _____

Thank you so much for your swift response to my complaint by phone yesterday afternoon. It is much appreciated.

Parking must be the last thing with which you would want to be concerned but yesterday was a particularly bad example of the problem. School parking has now stretched as far as this end of School Lane. Common View is already a chosen site of dropping off and collection, as is your end of the road. How much further will it creep? At school opening and closing times the Lane becomes both a race track and then a giant car park making it difficult for parents, pedestrians and residents alike, let alone any bus or other utility vehicle. There are no white lines painted on the carriageway which should warn drivers there is little or no room for passing but this does nothing to slow traffic down with the result that banks are being eroded by drivers forcing a passage, thus changing the whole character of this once attractive Lane.

Your suggestion the Police should be notified of obstructions and speeding is not a viable one. Like you, they have more pressing matters. I have been in touch with the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch expressing my view that the root cause of the problem is the policy of 'bussing in' children from outside the village without adequate provision for safe arrival and departure. There is no solution but to ask parents to slow down, be more considerate and to be aware not just of themselves but of the people who live here. Twenty is plenty - forty (often much faster) is naughty.

Best wishes to you and to the School and thank you for letting me express my thoughts.

Yours sincerely,

_____) (rs)