

QUESTION NO. 2

Councillor Whitham to ask the Chair:

Improving Road Safety Outside Schools

Green councillors are frequently contacted by parents concerned about road safety outside local schools such as Earley St Peter's (the school is in Wokingham but the problem is in Reading), Alfred Sutton, Redlands and Maiden Erlegh in Reading. This is a problem across the town.

Often this is because other parents are parking on school zigzags and double yellow lines with loading bans. This can create a chaotic environment with cars driving on the pavement and manoeuvring erratically to get round congestion. This is dangerous and unacceptable. But traffic wardens are rarely seen.

We want to see a healthy Reading with more children walking to school. This means improving road safety and the perception of road safety at our schools.

Unfortunately, due to government changes I understand that the CCTV camera car can no longer enforce loading bans outside schools. Also, I believe that when our parking enforcement contract was renewed the number of traffic wardens was reduced.

Can the Chair/Lead Councillor inform me how much traffic warden enforcement there currently is outside of our schools (in hours and as a percentage of total enforcement)? Will the Lead Councillor commit to increasing enforcement outside of our schools to ensure that every Reading child has a safe route to school ?

REPLY by Councillor Page:

School keep clear markings, the yellow zig-zag markings, that are placed directly outside schools for the safety of school children are enforced by the CCTV camera van. During the school arrival and departure times the enforcement van is totally dedicated to enforcing those restrictions. The use of the van is still permitted and is a far more effective means of enforcement than civil enforcement officers deployed on foot.

We are dedicated to safety outside our schools and promoting our safer routes to schools scheme. Most schools are now protected with school keep clear markings, 20mph speed limits, pedestrian crossing points and, in some cases additional traffic calming, which have proved to be hugely successful since their delivery many years ago.