



Appendix 1 - Response from Hampshire Highways

Thank you for raising the parking issues at Church Lane in Sway near Lymington.

Congestion at school start and finish times is a common issue. It is recognised that difficulties can be experienced for short periods on term time weekdays. In these situations, where drivers are making quick stops to drop off and collect children, parking regulations are often flouted as civil enforcement resources cannot be provided at a level to ensure compliance.

Please note there is often an expectation that new parking restrictions would be a quick/low cost measure, but this is not the case. The provision of any new or amendments to formal parking restrictions requires implementation of a legally enforceable Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), which is a relatively costly and lengthy process including formal consultations and advertisements. It is also a resource intensive process and the cost of the parking signs and road markings is usually minimal compared to the staff resources and legal costs involved.

Successive cuts to local government funding combined with increasing pressure on social care budgets has severely limited the County Council's ability to carry out detailed reviews of every site reported to us, necessitating difficult decisions about how we prioritise the remaining resources available to us. Currently we are focussing our efforts for new parking restrictions at locations where there is an injury accident record or our professional judgement suggests there is a safety concern which should be prioritised. New parking restrictions on the above road does not fall into that category and will therefore not be prioritised compared to other schemes on our safety programmes that are directly related to casualty reduction.

Successive cuts to local government funding combined with increasing pressure on social care budgets has severely limited the County Council's ability to carry out detailed reviews of every site reported to us, necessitating difficult decisions about how we prioritise the remaining resources available to us. However, as mentioned, with no parking related treatable collisions reported at this location we cannot justify considering new parking restrictions at this time.

A link to our policy can be viewed via the following link, along with further information on associated policy and criteria for specific traffic management measures. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadsafety/makingroadssafer>

Schools are generally aware of the parking issues in the vicinity of the school and Hampshire County Council actively encourage parents through the school to consider more active travel to schools through its School Travel Plan programme.

You may wish to encourage the schools in your area directly to take more interest in the opportunities available and if the school are interested then they can email travelplans@hants.gov.uk and/or the school can also access support from the Road Safety team around child safety. Further information and resources on parking if they wish are available online at www.myjourneyhampshire.com/education.

Though this may not be the response you would have hoped for, I nonetheless trust you understand the position of the County Council on the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Senior Highways Support Officer
Hampshire Highways
Hampshire County Council