



The Kings of Wessex School

A Church of England Foundation School - Specialist Technology College

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"Getting the best out of everyone"

February 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

As the School Council of the Kings of Wessex School we are made up of students aged 13-18 years of age.

For several years now we have been working on a Road Safety Campaign to try and raise awareness to all road users as well as pedestrians about responsible road use around the entrance to our school. To this end we devised a School Travel Plan and are committed to working with Sustrans as part of our safer routes to school initiative. In recognition of our work we were awarded a government grant of £10,000 to improve the secure storage of bicycles and provide extensions to the barriers in the coach park.

The demolition of the toilets adjacent to the school entrance would effect a really positive change to the safe passage at the entrance to the school site. The demolition of the toilets would improve access for car users and provide opportunities for separating the pedestrian and vehicular traffic at the entrance.

Currently there is only room for one vehicle to both enter and exit the site via the main gate. There are often safety issues due to the constrained splay and cars parked opposite our entrance with coaches often having to mount the pavement. There has been one injury as a result of this and several near misses reported by staff on duty.

The current location of the toilets adds to the traffic congestion and associated problems of constricted access into Saxon Way.

As part of our Road Safety Campaign we have consulted widely, visiting all the local business as well as talking to coach companies, parents and governors. In 2006 we invited the Highways Agency to a presentation as well as presenting to the Parish Council about our concerns.

We feel the need to raise the issue with the Parish Council again as another problem has developed. The toilets and adjacent bench has become the focal point for many undesirables. These are people who are often older and don't go to The Kings of Wessex. They congregate in this area and give the school a bad name as people automatically associate them with us. Most of us feel intimidated to walk past or through them. These people influence the vulnerable students from our school and lead them astray.

This situation is worse after school than before and it continues into the evening and weekends. We have consulted widely in school about this issue and asked for suggestions. The response was overwhelmingly 'get rid of the toilets'. No one uses them because they are too scared and they have just become a no-go area.

We have talked to the local police who are helpful but they can't always be there. Sometimes we see our teachers who are on duty keeping us safe being verbally abused by these undesirables.

We would appeal to local members of the community to work with us to improve the situation.

We are proud of our school and our community and we are working hard to make The Kings of Wessex and the surrounding area an even better place. We have lots of ideas and would be very happy to speak with you further on this.

Yours faithfully,

School Council Students
The Kings of Wessex School

