

Love Town Hill, June 2023

Love Town Hill is a campaign group established by residents in June 2023.

Aim: Together let's make Town Hill a safer, healthier and happier street

Current issues

- City sized school, 550 pupils, 70-80 staff in village with limited parking
- Too many cars parking and manoeuvring into Town Hill and the adjoining streets.
- Area has limited pavements, a junction with the main road which is often blocked, and crossing place that does not give pedestrians priority.
- Regular near misses with children running around and distracted parents.
- Pollution from slow moving traffic and idling cars
- Residents frustrated at not being able to park on returning home with friends and family also unable to park during school times.

Love Town Hill Campaign

Reminding all the streets users (staff, parents, grandparents, guardians, residents) that Town Hill is a **residential street** and the **only pedestrian access to the school**. This important throughfare needs to be kept safe, accessible and pollution free for all users.

This is a long term culture change project.

Love Town Hill Smile Strolls – Pilot Project

A simple ideas based on the Street Pastors model of engaging with a smile. Non-confrontational.

Many schools have staff monitoring the nearby street during school run hours – volunteers are offering to do this. The idea is very simple, to be a “soft touch” presence, a reminder that this is a street where people live, not a school car park.

Volunteers will wear high viz vests branded with Love Town Hill and will walk around, smiling and chatting and encouraging people to park safely. Volunteers will walk away from anyone attempting to enter into any kind of confrontation and we are hoping to receive training from Street Pastors.

The volunteers are not civil enforcement officers but residents who care about the street and want it to be a safer place for hundreds of children using it every day. To make it a healthier and happier place for all.

Key Safety Message

Volunteers will maintain a high profile with posters, flyers, bunting, reinforcing key safety messages.

Residents will be supplied with a Love Town Hill logo “permits” in our cars, an informal residents parking scheme to highlight they live here and need to park in the residential street.

Partnerships

LTH is already working in partnership with Jonathan Bishop, the schools' CEO, county councillors Henry Gent and Sara Randall-Johnson, the parish council and Sustrans, the active travel charity.

Liz Straw, LTH founder Liz Straw, who is a Broadclyst parish councillor, was awarded a £3,000 grant to employ a Sustrans officer to help both Broadclyst and Westclyst primaries encourage active travel. Also working with Mums for Lungs and Brightkidz, a safety social enterprise.

DCC

- Work closely with civic enforcement officers to regularly enforce double yellows at junction of Town Hill and B3181 and Hellings.
- Consult about painting double yellows at the junction of Town Hill and Hellings to prevent parking. Currently cars and vans block the vision of pedestrian crossing.
- Richards, highways manager has said he would be willing to "help" with an active campaign running.

Fire Brigade

Ask for visits to enforce safety message about bad parking costing lives.

Broadclyst Primary School

Suggestions

School Drop Off Circle: Give priority to **lift share only** or at least promoted through the pupils as such. Saves money, less time driving, less carbon.

New Pupils: "How will you get to school" discussion is needed for all **new starters** for long term impact. Promoting active travel and lift sharing as normal school practice. Explanation needed of how school parking seriously disrupts village life, spaces needed for patients at doctors surgery, Clyst Caring clients and carers, village hall events, shop and post office.

Focus on Local Pupils: Ensuring they are encouraged to walk – walking bus from top of playing field? We're hearing of too many local parents driving.