

Buddy the Bear Road Safety Campaign

Quick update I trialled the first Buddy meet and greet a school open evening. Buddy stood in School Lane and handed out 15 flyers to parents and staff. I chose this as a quiet evening to chat with folks – future meet and greets will be in normal school hours. Unfortunately Karl was ill and my other helper was unable to attend.

It was great to meet such a positive response to the message of improving road safety from parents, staff and the few children I met. There certainly is an appetite for dealing with this issue. I received encouragement and gratitude that something was being done to address this problem.

Action

Need co-operation from the school to publicise Buddy so children understand who he is.

Ask school to send out:

- Photo of Buddy standing in Town Hill
- The Buddy information flyer/danger zone map

Next Buddy meet and greet – date to be arranged

Venue: School Lane, Time: 3.30pm

Method of engagement: Hand out Buddy the Bear Keep Kids Safe stickers to children.

Buddy will be an elusive bear, can't be on permanent patrol – some of this work must be done by councillors with helpers, handing out flyers, stickers – just chatting without the distraction of Buddy.

Partnership working

Last week PCSO Jonathan Sims visited Town Hill to assess the situation and to advise drivers and move cars on.

He made two comments:

“Do you have a walking bus for local children?”

“One parent complained that the village car park is used by people to park vehicles long term with no restrictions if this is the case then stopping this would gain more parking at school times.”

The issue of the car park is indeed a thorny one. A significant problem is the number of school staff parking there from early morning to late afternoon.

Discussion point: Can we ask the school to create more parking spaces on its own land?

Can we ask the school to start a walking bus discussion with parents?

DCC

I've written to Stuart Hughes asking for a new approach to dealing with bad parking when DCC refuses to pay for more double yellow lines. I'm asking for temporary permission for the parish council to put out cones to disrupt this illegal parking as we soft launch our campaign.

In the meantime we're regularly photographing cars on the DYL at top of Town Hill and recording number plates to discover repeat offenders. Also sending this to Report It DCC.

Have noticed that the area has improved, albeit temporarily, but a very clear message is being repeatedly sent to drivers.

Emergency Services road safety, police fire, ambulance

The fire bridge is offering free flyers, emphasising the importance of keeping roads clear.

The flyers have boxes for time/date and vehicle registration.

Action: Ask for some and trial placing on windscreens of offending vehicles or handing to drivers – note this would be done discreetly – not by Buddy.