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| **Woodburn Recommended Routes To School Meeting 25/10/17 6:45pm** | |
| **Attendees**  Gillian Bathgate, Scott Borthwick, Joanna Taylor, Debbie Lawson, Hannah Clark, Margot Russell, Laura Saunders, Paula McPheators, Beya Thompson, Julie Candy | |
| **Key Concerns**    **Easter Langside**   * Easter Langside residents are concerned about the roundabout at the entrance to the estate – speed of people coming into the estate * Requests for speed bumps, zebra crossing, reduction in speed limit * Concerns about bus stops with no layby for them at the entrance to the estate * Lack of pavement * The crossing opposite the campus there is no crossing patrol * High school kids are not pressing the button for the crossing and so then primary children are just following   **Thorny Crook**   * Safety aspect * Concern over increasing volume of traffic * General support for a scheme to close roads to vehicles * Speed signs * More visibility of school and council * Stressful walking to school – cars stopping at various points and so the whole estate is busy * People coming last minute to school at speed and stopping * Residents can’t get out of their drive | |
| Lack of pavement | Margot has spoken to the planners and they say that this is a design – all open plan.  G.B. It is government policy to design estates like this and therefore it is like this throughout Scotland not just Midlothian |
| Crossing patrols | This is an area where funding may be pulled and there is a link on the council website to gather opinions on this. Parents are able to share their views about this. |
| Narrowing gap in railings opposite campus | Mentioned to Road Safety engineer and this will be chased up by Gillian Bathgate. |
| Raised crossing at the entrance to Easter Langside | This is in the budget for this year and it is hoped that this will go ahead. |
| Bus Routes through Easter Langside | Nobody seems to know whether this will go ahead as planning for the retail area did not go ahead. |
| Speed Limits | There is not the budget to make a 20MPH limit because of the signage and the road legislation that needs to be written for each change that is made. A sign could be put up at the start of Thorny Crook to indicate that children are there. |
| Traffic Lights opposite campus | This is too short to let enough cars through therefore people chance it to get through which is causing issues. |
| Additional Housing | This may mean there is additional funding from developers which could allow for additional safety aspects. |
| Railings on new pavement at Barrett Houses | These are in place to stop pedestrian overflow not to guide children away from the road. The engineers say that it is not safe to have these railings as people can be crushed against them therefore it is unlikely that railings will be added. |
| Behaviour of High school pupils | The route through Thorny Crook is bringing the high school pupils into the primary school, there have been incidents of smoking, bad language and poor behaviour in the grounds of the primary school |
| Gate at the back of the Playground is too narrow | This is causing a bottleneck could it be doubled in width? A child has been separated from their parent due to the huge number of people trying to get through the gate. |
| School times | Joanna is going to start a consultation to change the school times by 10 minutes to try and reduce traffic volume. |
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| * Unfortunately there is not a lot we can do. Thorny Crook is a public road and therefore people cannot be stopped using the road. The police have also done a walk around and at the time of the observations there was no antisocial parking. Residents have noted that when people saw the police they did not go in to the estate. The traffic will be counted – boxes will be put in place – discussion about making sure that these are put in the correct place to count all the traffic. * It was raised that the route through the estate was billed as the “recommended route to school” however this is not the safest route as the pavement is traffic free. Suggestion that a letter goes out making the recommended route to schools clear. * It was suggested that people choose to walk through the estate to avoid the litter, dog dirt etc on the main road. * A joint letter will be issued from the council and police to encourage people to be considerate will be issued to those still using Thorny Crook as a drop off zone. * The time of the bin collection has been changed * JRSOs will create a leaflet to encourage pupils to be more aware of walking safely to school. * Two road exclusion pilot schemes are running in Midlothian. Residents have exemptions and must have a permit for cars registered to that address. The scheme has started at Lasswade and will start at Kings Park will start after Christmas. This is not out of the question however it will not be this year. The pilot schemes will be reviewed and if it is continued, other schools will be considered. * Gillian will check and see when the radars were last at the Easter Langside and will pass the information about speed and volume on to the school. * Discussion about additional parking at Cowden – could this be an option as it would be dual purpose between the pavilion, school and football club. Margot can ask the question. * School will run a banner competition to encourage people to be respectful and aware of safety on our school routes * School will also look to join the WOW awards scheme to encourage pupils to walk to school with badges given as a reward for those who walk, scoot or park and stride to school. Parent council will look to fund this. * Discussion about perhaps writing an article with Midlothian Advertiser to make other local people aware of parental concerns in the area. * Minutes will be made available on the website and this will shared with parents via a letter. * The overriding message from residents, parents, school and council is the safety of the children of the school. | |
| * The group will meet again on Tuesday 16th January at 6:45pm to provide feedback and share any progress. | |