

St Bride's Primary School

St Brigid's Church Car Park Improvement Works



Dear Parents/Guardians, as you will likely be aware, traffic congestion within the Windsor Avenue and Derryvolgie Avenue car parks is an issue during the school's drop off and pick up times. When coupled with pedestrian movements through the car parks, this scenario is giving rise to potential safety concerns for children and parents/guardians using the car parks.

To address this, transport specialists Atkins have recently reviewed operation and safety within the car parks, during the school's drop-off and pick-up times, and proposed a suite of minor improvement works with a view to improving operation and safety for all users.

Issues highlighted as requiring action:

- **Informal Parking** - Cars parking in areas not formally designated for parking reduces available space for manoeuvring, and impedes visibility of pedestrians and other vehicles making it more difficult for users to navigate. Informal parking also results in 'bottlenecking' at the thoroughfare between the Derryvolgie and Windsor car parks, which exacerbates congestion and presents a potential safety issue.
- **Vehicular Flow** - Whilst vehicle speeds within car parks are typically low, multiple vehicles performing movements in both forward and reverse gears can make this type of environment potentially dangerous, especially during busy periods. Given the constrained nature of the Derryvolgie car park, it's current operation as 'two-way' is resulting in congestion and a chaotic environment during drop-off and pickup times. Furthermore, given the relative size of school children moving ad hocly amongst parked and moving vehicles, limited visibility within the car park is of particular concern.
- **Pedestrian Flow** - Whilst designated footways exist within the car parks, it has been observed that pupils entering the Derryvolgie car park from the school gate are leaving the footpath and navigating ad hocly between parked and moving vehicles. Given the relative size of pupils, unaccompanied movement between parked and moving vehicles presents a potential safety issue.

Overleaf you will see a plan of the proposed improvement works to be implemented to achieve our objectives for the car park.

Objectives:

- **User Safety** - Improving safety for users, primarily pupils and other pedestrian users, but also drivers by creating a more rationalised flow of pedestrian and vehicular movements within the car parks.
- **Operation** - Improving the car park's operation and functionality by reducing congestion, improving manoeuvrability and improving ease of parking.

To minimise disruption to the School and the Parish Hall, changes to the car park will take place during the week of the school Easter holiday period (**April 2nd - 6th 2018**). No access to the Derryvolgie car park will be permitted during this period. It is anticipated the Windsor Avenue car park will largely operate as normal during this period; however, there may be some minor disruption during installation of road markings. Pedestrians access to the Parish Hall from the Derryvolgie and Windsor accesses will still be maintained during the works period.

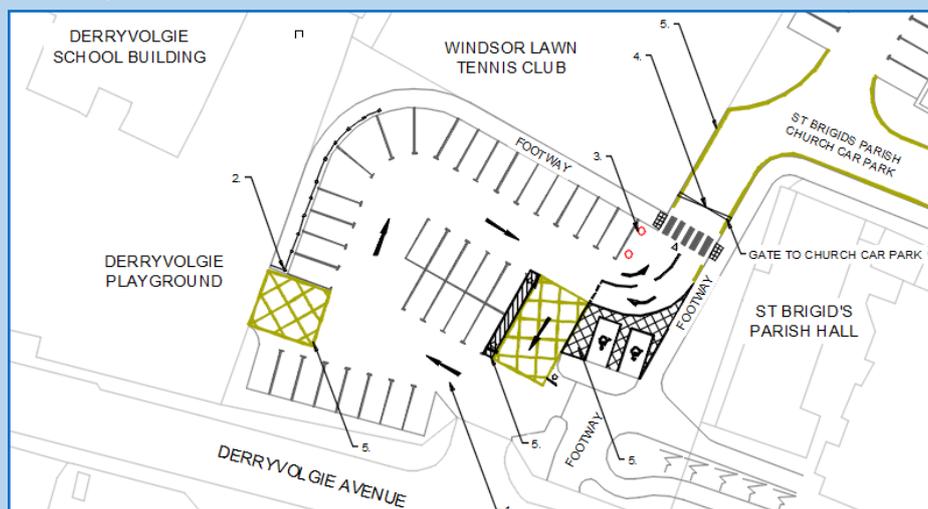
The improved car park, and associated strategy for operation, will take effect from **Monday, April 9th 2018**.

We would like to thank Parents, Guardians and Staff in advance for their patience in adjusting to the new car park system and their understanding that the improvement works will make the car park a safer environment for everyone.

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Our Improvement Plan



As indicated, improvements will include:

- 1. Permanent One-Way System in Derryvolgie Car Park** - New signs and road markings will be installed to indicate a clockwise flow of traffic within the car park. This flow will rationalise vehicle movement, making traffic movement more predictable for pedestrians and drivers to navigate. The car park accesses to Derryvolgie Avenue and the Windsor car park are to remain permanently Two-Way.
- 2. Pedestrian Guardrail** - Children and other pedestrians will be prevented from leaving the footway when they emerge through the school grounds into the car park. Guardrail will encourage the utilisation of the existing footway around the car park perimeter, thereby controlling the movement of children around and into the car park so that vehicle's can more easily predict and see their movement.
- 3. Traffic Bollards** - (Highlighted by red circles) these will prohibit informal parking at the location shown, improving manoeuvrability for vehicles into and out of the thoroughfare between the Derryvolgie and Windsor car parks. Visibility of pedestrians at the crossing will also be improved.
- 4. Closure of Gate** - During school pick-up and drop-off times, it is proposed that the gates between the two car parks will be closed to prevent vehicles navigating between car parks and improve the one-way flow system. However, the pedestrian gate between car parks will remain open, allowing Parents/Guardians to still utilise both car parks during drop-off and pick up.
- 5. Road Markings and Traffic Signs** - To enforce the operation of the car park, a suite of new road markings and traffic signs are to be installed.

In addition, some minor changes to kerbs within the car parks will be made to improve ease of access.

For Further Details regarding the improvement works please visit the school website at

www.stbridesps.org.uk