

Shaw Ridge Primary SSEZ - Frequently raised comments/queries

1. What are the benefits of the Traffic-calming measures proposed such as a speed restriction and part-time lights at the Ridge Green and Shaw

The proposed School Safety Zone signs on Shaw Road serve to warn drivers of the likely presence of school children. The use of flashing amber lights help to increase visibility of the sign and the accompanying advisory 20mph limit encourages drivers to adopt driving behaviours – slower speeds - appropriate to the conditions. For this reason the flashing amber lights are timed to operate at the start and end of the school day when drivers are most likely to see a change in traffic patterns.

School Safety Zone signs have been widely used through Swindon and nationally and in 2016 were incorporated into the Traffic Signs Regulations & General Directions 2016 for England and Wales as a sign recognised for use outside schools to improve road safety.

2. The yellow lining element of the proposal along Ridge Green would worsen the current traffic problem and lead to a further migration of parking to other neighbouring streets and this would cause concern for residents of The Bramptons as it is a narrower than Ridge Green,

It is acknowledged that the introduction of parking restrictions can displace parking into neighbouring roads, in this case where there are no restrictions. To assist with this we are working with Shaw Ridge Primary and the Community PCSOs on complimentary behavioural change initiatives to promote alternative modes of travel and encourage more considerate parking behaviours. All measures will be monitored following implementation. The Bramptons main road into the estate and Ridge Green Road are both between 5.5m-6m wide the Bramptons feels narrow due to the wide verges.

3. Please advise if a Risk Assessment and/or Highways Study was commissioned to inform this draft.

Risk assessments are undertaken for each scheme design during and following site visits. Risks are recorded and used to determine whether engineering interventions are required and appropriate.

4. Can the council undertake a parking restriction trial before the permanent solution and costly process of double yellow lines are installed? The use of traffic cones along the road for a period of time would allow for the impact to surrounding roads to be assessed correctly

Parking restrictions of this nature can only be trialled as an experimental traffic regulation order which still requires the appropriate road markings to be installed on the carriageway. The placing of cones on the highway are generally used under Streetworks temporary or emergency work and have not been found to give a true impression of the effect of permanent parking restrictions.

5. Can you also advise what the school are doing in support of this to educate parents and encourage parents to not drive

Officers have been engaging with Shaw Ridge Primary to promote sustainable travel - walking, cycling and scooting to school. Alongside the engineering measures we have also been discussing

- establishment of a Park & Stride
- Anti-idling and Air Quality toolkit to inform pupil led activities
- Child led road safety poster design for inclusion into Banners for outside the school

6. The Schools website does not mention problems with parking, what are the behaviour change initiatives that they have tried? or any information on surveys on how many children(families) arrive by car or any advice to parents on how to park safely

Officers have established a line of engagement with Shaw Ridge Primary and are sharing information and literature with the school to share with parents.

All Schools across the Borough are asked annually to provide Mode of Data Travel as part of the School Census. This survey informs pupil numbers, the percentage of those within a walking threshold and percentage of car use within the walk to school threshold.

7. Why do you need a school safe zone in Shaw Road?

The Council is committed to delivering School Safe Environment Zones (SSEZ) for all Swindon's Schools over a 5 year programme to address local road safety and congestion related concerns around each school.

Assessment of the traffic management and road safety conditions in and around Shaw Ridge and engagement with the school and local Ward Councillors has informed the design of the SSEZ for Shaw Ridge Primary.

8. The school has a coffee van, this encourages parent to both park up, and stay longer in the area, whilst it raises funds it's not helping the situation.

The coffee van is organised through the school for their use and has a regular Friday morning pitch on the school site inside their unity garden off the public highway. This is beyond the jurisdiction of the Council. Any concerns with the coffee van should be raised with the school.

Officers have also spoken to the driver of the ice cream van and advised that it was not appropriate for them to be parked outside the school gate and has been asked to move on. Street trading have confirmed that no street trading involving the supply of hot or cold food and drinks or confectionery shall be permitted between 07:30 and 18:00 within 200 meters of the boundary of an educational establishment. Details of the offending Ice Cream van have been passed over to Street Trading.

9. As the teachers also park in the same area as the parents, could they not park on the school land inside the old school gates and put a hash zone area so there is no stopping in that area.

The car parks provided by or at schools are more often than not, for the benefit of the students and their staff, and have limited spaces. Staff have been asked to park onsite as much as possible.

10. Pedestrian crossing could be added nearer the school to make it safer to cross the road

There is a signal-controlled crossing on Shaw Road that was introduced for the purpose of assisting children to cross to gain access to Ridge Green. Ridge Green is not a through road and is not suitable for a crossing.

11. We already suffer with parking issues around the entrance/Clubhouse area of the estate with cars parking on pavements causing children and adults with pushchairs to be forced out onto the road. As a result residents are to leave their cars at home and walk to ease congestion. Additional parking would just exasperate this problem.

Requests for new parking controls or alterations to existing ones will be considered but must have the support of the wider community, not just an individual or small group of individuals as substantial costs (approx. £5000), time and resources can be incurred. Any request must initially be supported by the local Councillors and a significant majority of residents/businesses likely to be affected by it must have demonstrated their support. It must also be in accord with the Council's wider objectives. If you are aware of a location where you feel parking controls may be of benefit please contact your local Ward Councillors. Contact details for Councillors may be found at www.swindon.gov.uk

12. Surely the first step is to address the "poor parking and double parking" stated in your letter drop which would go some way to making it safer.

Officers have discussed these issues with colleagues in Parking Services and requested an enforcement presence at Shaw Ridge Primary school to address these concerns. A vehicle parked more than 50 centimetres from the edge of the carriageway and not within a designated parking place may be subject to a penalty charge notice.

In addition to the proposed restrictions Officers are working with Shaw Ridge Primary to develop behavioural change initiatives to encourage more parents/carers and pupils to walk or cycle to school.

13. How many incidents/near misses have there been over the past 3 years and where are they recorded?

There have been no reported injury collisions within 50m or 100m of Shaw Ridge Primary School entrance in the last 3 years of data (2018 -2020).

14. If the council/school cannot manage the poor parking then how will they enforce the double yellow lines when ignored? Who is going to police the restrictions

If the proposed restrictions are implemented they will be enforced by Swindon Borough Council Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs). The CEOs currently have no reason at present to regularly patrol in Ridge Green as there currently are no parking restrictions to enforce. Although CEOs at a request from a resident or the school will visit the area to enforce vehicles parking over a vehicle access/drop kerb or if seen to be double parked.

Parking on the footway and verges along Ridge Green can only be enforced if there are parking restrictions on the public highway. Currently there are no restrictions on Ridge Green which limits the level of enforcement that can be undertaken.

The double parking around the turning circle can be enforced as there are designated parking areas. This behaviour has been reported to Parking Service and the Civil Enforcement Officers have made a visit to the area to warn drivers and move them on and in addition to this a letter was sent to [parents from Swindon Borough Council Road Safety Team via the school communication channels.

15. We will no longer be able to park outside our own apartments to unload shopping or have guests and visitors

The proposal for Shaw Ridge Primary School is not taking away the parking opposite the apartments it is only proposed to install No Waiting at Any Time for 10m around the junction of The Bramptons in accordance with the Highway Code.

Additional No Waiting at Any Time restrictions are proposed on the bend on the west side to provide a passing place for drivers with limited forward visibility of oncoming traffic as a result of parked vehicles. In addition, it is proposed to place parking restrictions on the east side from the junction of Shaw Road to the entrance of the car park (beside the bollards) the reason is to stop cars parking half on and off the verge and around the junction that access the turning circle. Cars will still be allowed to park along the western side of Ridge Green away from the junctions and areas of concern.

There are no restrictions on loading or un-loading included in the proposals.

16. I understand that the school has not even been consulted about the plans as yet?

Representatives of the School have attended meetings with Council Officers and Ward Councillors. The draft proposals have been shared with the school.

17. What will happen with parent's evenings, school plays, and sports days etc, combined with voting days?

There is parking available within the car park although limited, there are also parking bays within the area. The current proposal is leaving space on the public highway to allow for parking. Visitors to the area that are planning to drive to attend events at Shaw Ridge Primary School will be reminded that they need to consider where they will park and consider alternative arrangements e.g. walking or car share. Elderly visitors that are blue badge holders can park on double yellow lines for up to 3 hours if their blue badge is on display.

18. What will happen to the access and car park for UET, this is for improvement of disabled young people, their carpark will be used even more by the school parents and this is just creating more issues again for other people and organisations.

It is proposed to place parking restrictions on the access into the car park to allow a free flow of movement in and out of this car park. Parents do already use this car park during the drop off and collection times and no concerns have been raised by users of the UET.

The proposed restrictions on the carriageway are to promote better parking behaviours by vehicle users in parking where there are no restrictions away from the accesses. In addition to this Swindon Borough Council have agreed with Simply Gym the use of their car park for a Park & Stride.

Disabled visitors that hold a blue badge can park on double yellow lines for up to 3 hours if their blue badge is on display.

19. Why not remove the grass verges on one or both side(s) of Ridge Green? There are verges both sides at the moment to provide parking. This coupled with the already open parking outside the school would solve the congestion issues?

The removal of verges to create additional parking would require significant financial expenditure that goes beyond the available budget for the School Safe Environment Zone scheme (SSEZ).

One of the objectives of a SSEZ is to achieve an increase in percentage of school pupils travelling to / from school by sustainable modes such as walking cycling or scooting to school so the provision of additional parking would conflict with this objective.

20. Why not extend the car parking provision on the ground outside the former Hop, Skip & Jump facility.

Extension of the UET car park to create additional parking would require significant financial expenditure that goes beyond the available budget for the School Safe Environment Zone scheme (SSEZ).

One of the objectives of a SSEZ is to achieve an increase in percentage of school pupils travelling to / from school by sustainable modes such as walking cycling or scooting to school so the provision of additional parking would conflict with this objective.

21. Have staggered start times been considered as with the change COVID brought about?

The School have confirmed that they had staggered times during the pandemic restrictions, but due to the logistics and the continued management of this they have will be reverting back to their original start and finish times from September 2021.

22. Has a "drop off area" been considered using some of the existing tarmacked area? Which is used in some other schools, whereby parents drive in and the child / children get out of the car and a member of staff shows them safely into the school grounds as their parents would have done?

Shaw Ridge already have an area for parking around the outer circle and the inner section of the circle to allow for drop-offs. This space is not enough for the amount of parents currently using their cars. The reconstruction of this area does not fall within the remit of the School Safe Environment Zone funding.

Or Has SBC looked at reconfiguring the existing parking lines / bays around the huge area in front of the school to allow more efficient use of the already extensive tarmacked area? At present cars park parallel to the side of the road whereas parking at 90 degrees to the side would allow many more cars to park safely?

This has been considered, allowing the vehicles to park echelon would reduce the width of the circle and this would have an impact on the turning circle and movement off larger vehicles such as coaches, delivery trucks and emergency vehicles. There is also vehicle access points into the schools on-site parking, echelon parking either side of this access or any of the two access would cause concerns with visibility. The cost to reconstruct this area would exceed the funding allocated to the School Safe Environment Zone for this School.

23. If double yellow lines must be used - just put them all down just one side of the road and both sides of Ridge Green from the junction on Shaw Road up to just after the junction with The Bramptons?

The current proposal is recommending part of this suggestion and to mitigate the risk of vehicle conflict a section of the western kerb line would need to be restricted to create a passing area. Some parking provision is being maintained for local residents of the Apartments.

24. Is it possible that the Council and the Wiltshire Constabulary could consider working in partnership to develop a memorandum of understanding to provide the funding for one or more police officers as a specialist post?

Swindon Borough Council Road Safety team are working in collaboration with Wiltshire Police. All schools across the Borough have an assigned PSCO and any concerns raised will be shared with them to work on a way of addressing these concerns.