



Governor News – 5/6/2015

Training

Last week, Sarah Ransome (elected parent governor) and I attended a briefing for governors run by the School Governance Team within Cambridgeshire County Council. This was a termly meeting intended to equip governors with the information they need for the forthcoming term's governing body business, as well as providing governors with an update on topical educational issues. The briefings are always informative and it is useful to hear issues being discussed in a county-wide setting. At this briefing, four main areas were covered:

- **School-Led School Improvement Proposal** - A county-wide committee is to be set up, led by an independent chair, to focus on finding ways to raise the achievement of vulnerable groups of children and young people within Cambridgeshire. Ofsted are expected to inspect schools across Cambs this term looking closely at the performance of children who are entitled to free school meals (over and above those with a general entitlement in KS1), and who have a statement of educational needs.
- **Lessons from Serious Case Reviews - Think Siblings** - A discussion of the key findings from two serious case reviews in Cambridgeshire and the recommendations for schools.
- **Prevent - The Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy** - Implications for Schools and Governors. We had advice on our new statutory responsibilities within the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act.
- **Health Related Behaviour Survey Results** - St Matthew's has taken part in this optional, county-led survey for children in Years 5 & 6 which gathers confidential information about the children's health and well-being. As governors, we will be looking at our results in the next full governors' meeting to help us to identify any areas of priority for our curriculum and/or school development plan.

Road Safety Update

You may remember that at the last Meet the Head before Easter, a parent had brought up the issue of pedestrian safety at the East Road, Burleigh and Norfolk Street crossing. On behalf of governors, I raised the issue with the relevant people at the council. I received the following response from a Road Safety Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council:

Thank you for raising your concerns about road safety at the junction of East Road, Burleigh Street and Norfolk Street. This is an extremely busy area so I can appreciate that especially at peak times there is a potential for conflict between road users. With pedestrians and cyclists being the most vulnerable groups we would share your desire to reduce risk of collision if there are changes that would be feasible and would reduce risk.

I have consulted with both our Cycling Team and the traffic signals engineers to see what scope there might be to make changes here. In summary it's difficult to segregate the two sets of users here as they arrive at the crossing from shared use type situations. Not all cyclists are going straight across between Norfolk Street and Burleigh Street, so even if segregated they would still come into conflict as they cross paths with other road users to go along East Road.

Quite extensive changes were made in 2005 when the current toucan crossing was introduced to provide more space and capacity for cyclists and pedestrians crossing and with the complexity of what for pedestrians and cyclists is a cross roads, and the volume of cycle, foot and vehicular traffic there is not much scope to segregate flows of vehicle/road user types any further than they already have been without making very extensive changes to the road network across that south eastern section of the city. Whilst such an area wide scheme might be something that can be considered as part of the longer term strategy it is not something I could offer from the relatively small annual casualty reduction budget.

I also discussed the issue with Kevin Blencowe, one of our co-opted governors, and he let me know that plans have been approved to restrict traffic to delivery vehicles only on the cut through between Adam and Eve Street and East Road. The details of the decision can be found here:

<http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/AgendaItem.aspx?agendaItemID=11323>. Kevin did not know exactly when this would be enforced.