

RECEIVED  
25 OCT 2007

Miss A Clarke  
16 Bunnies Lane  
Rowde  
Devizes  
Wiltshire  
SN10 2PZ  
23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007

Dear Mr Tamin,

My name is Amy Clarke and my dad (Dave Clarke) has asked me to write to you, to explain what it feels like to walk the route from Rowde to Devizes School.

In the past when my parents could not afford to pay for the bus pass I have walked, the longest period I have walked was for two weeks. Because it takes at least one hour, I was sometimes a little late for School which caused some problems. Now that the School starts at eight thirty am it means I will have to leave my house by at least seven thirty am.

According to my dad you and your colleagues are not interested in the distance we have to walk, apparently you are only interested in the safety of the route. When I've walked the route before carrying all my school equipment I can assure you distance does matter. In the past my dad has asked you and your colleagues/members of Devizes School and the local police to walk the route to actually feel what it is like, every body has always declined.

The safety issues I have with the route are the width of the path; in places it feels very narrow when carrying all of my school equipment. The traffic seems to be going very fast even in the village. Sometimes the larger Lorries create such a wind it feels like you could be blown over. The condition of the path is very bad with ruts and bumps and also grass growing up through. I feel if I was expected to walk the route in the winter months there would have to be more lighting.

I was very pleased to hear you and your colleagues are going to re-assess the route to see if we qualify for a free bus pass, so that no child from Rowde has to walk this horrible route to School in the future.

I was very disappointed that you and your colleagues would not give me the opportunity to demonstrate how I feel while walking the route carrying all my School equipment, at the time I would be walking to School.

A lot of my village friends have told me they would never walk the route, if their parents could not afford to pay the bus fares.

The last thing I would like to say is me and my dad had a meeting with our MP. The RT.HON.Micheal Ancram, Q.C.,M.P. He told us he was going to write to your boss regarding the increase in fares and the safety of the route. Mr Ancram told us he drives the route regularly, and in his opinion the route was not suitable for children to walk to school daily because of the rural position of our village.

Me and all of my friends from the village of Rowde who go to Devizes School look forward to the outcome of the re-assessment.

Yours sincerely

Amy Clarke

Aged-15

Availability of crossing points along the walking route in Devises

