

**Wiltshire Council**

**Trowbridge Area Board**

**14 July 2016**

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**Questions from Mr Paul Jubbie at the Area Board on 12 May 2016**

**The answers below are Wiltshire Council's Response based on Legal Advice:**

**1. 'Why will Wiltshire Council not let Highways put up these missing school entrance signs?'**

The Area Board does not have the power under the Constitution to make Countywide decisions (i.e. decisions concerning matters outside of their area). In this case the new regulations need to be considered carefully and a policy drafted to appropriately apply to schools with advisory markings countywide.

**2. 'Why won't the council enable the police to enforce these school road markings?'**

This question concerns the enforcement powers of the Police which as stated above the Council understand the Police to have enforcement powers under the Highways Act if a vehicle is found to be obstructing the highway and causing a danger to other users of the highway. In respect of the Grove School the school road markings are currently 'advisory' and not 'regulatory'. The current practice regarding stopping of vehicles in school entrances is where such markings are advisory is deemed to be beneficial (with each school being assessed as an individual case. In the majority of cases, the advisory lines are considered to be sufficient as drivers obey the keep clear markings and both mandatory and advisory markings have been found to have a similar effect on motorists. The advisory markings also allow some flexibility for schools as stated previously (in this case the Grove school has put in place a scheme to enable pupils to be dropped off at the school gate and taken into school by a member of staff to reduce traffic congestion during school drop off and collection times).

**3. Which is more important to the council, the cost of putting up a missing sign or the cost of school child's life?'**

The Council always considers child safety to be paramount however so far as the Grove school is concerned there have been no recorded injury collisions in the vicinity of the school over the last 5 years up to 31 December 2015. The school has consulted with the Police regarding the 'stop and drop' scheme and the Council understands the Police are

satisfied with the scheme. Attached is a copy of a statement from the Council's Road Safety Manager (Education) made 17 May 2016 for information.