



Traffic & Parking Update

Main Road near Bolton-le-Sands Primary School

2nd December 2024

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Summary

The Parish Council continues to advocate for improved traffic and pedestrian safety around Bolton-le-Sands Primary School, particularly in response to community concerns regarding persistent parking violations, traffic congestion, and safety risks along Main Road and Packet Lane.

This report summarises the challenges surrounding traffic and parking near Bolton-le-Sands Primary School, supported by community feedback and enforcement data. Key concerns include safety risks, insufficient enforcement, and infrastructure limitations. The Parish Council is committed to collaborating with stakeholders to develop effective solutions, with proposed actions outlined in this report.

December Updates

1. Correspondence with Lancashire County Council Highways

Following our request for a multi-agency meeting, Lancashire County Council Highways has **declined** to engage directly in such discussions. Their response highlighted the measures already in place, including parking restrictions, Civil Enforcement Officer visits, and road safety education programs delivered through the school.

- **Parking Enforcement Data**

Enforcement visits have decreased significantly, with 19 visits conducted between September 2023 and March 2024, resulting in 15 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs). Between March and November 2024, this dropped to just 5 visits and 3 PCNs—a reduction of 74%. This decline raises concerns about the consistency of enforcement and its impact on local compliance.

- **Suggestions from Highways**

Highways recommended exploring staggered school opening and closing times or reopening the top entrance to reduce traffic bottlenecks. While these suggestions have been considered previously, they have practical limitations without a broader assessment of their feasibility and impact on traffic flow and safety.

2. Engagement with Stakeholders

- **Lancashire County Council Highways**

The Parish Council remains disappointed by the lack of proactive engagement from Highways and Transport, particularly in light of repeated requests for discussions and their dismissal of a multi-agency meeting. We continue to press for meaningful collaboration to address these issues comprehensively.

- **School Collaboration**

The response from Highways has been shared with Daniel Hargreaves, Headteacher at Bolton-le-Sands Primary School, for further input on potential strategies and any updates to current initiatives.

3. Proposed Actions

- **Lancaster City Council Support**

Propose that **Cllr Keith Budden** formally request support from Lancaster City Council on this issue and advocate for it to be included as an agenda item at the upcoming City Council meeting on **Wednesday, 11th December 2024**. This could provide an additional platform for discussion and reinforce the need for a coordinated response from all relevant stakeholders.

- **Next Steps for the Parish Council**

Continue to liaise with Lancashire County Council and other stakeholders, urging reconsideration of a multi-agency meeting to address these concerns collaboratively.

- **Continue to liaise with Lizzi Collinge MP**, who has committed to pushing for further engagement from Highways and Transport on behalf of the Parish Council and the community.

- **Gather ongoing resident feedback** on parking and traffic concerns to shape the Council's next steps.

- We call on Lancashire County Council to increase parking enforcement frequency during peak school times and reconsider their position on a multi-agency meeting.

Community Feedback

[Public Feedback Form](#) Responses: 27 (as of 2nd December 2024)

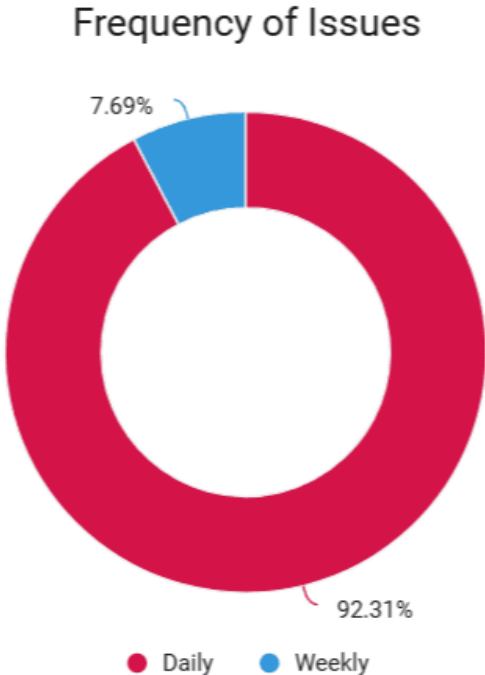
Overview

A survey of community feedback on traffic and parking concerns has been conducted, providing valuable insights into the challenges faced by residents, particularly around Bolton-le-Sands Primary School and key areas like Main Road, Packet Lane, and the Community Centre car park. This feedback underscores the need for coordinated action and improved traffic management.

Key Findings from Community Feedback

1. Frequency of Issues

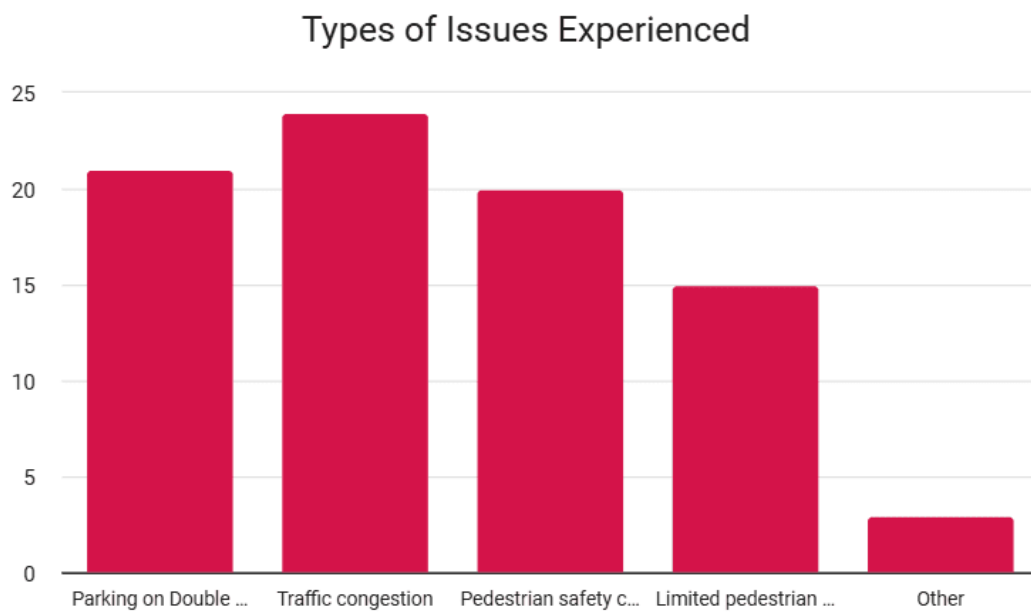
92% of respondents experience issues daily, with only 8% reporting issues weekly. This highlights the urgency of addressing these persistent problems.



2. Types of Issues Reported

The most common issues are:

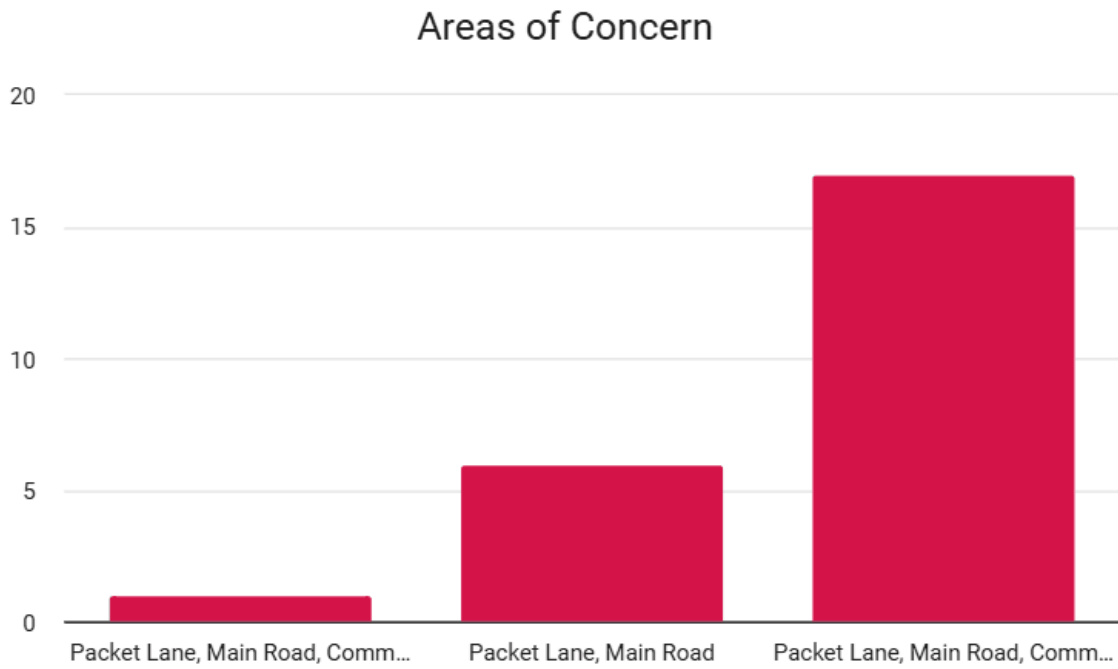
- Traffic congestion (24 mentions)
- Parking on Double Yellow Lines (21 mentions)
- Pedestrian safety concerns (20 mentions)
- Limited pedestrian space (14 mentions)



3. Areas of Concern

The most frequently mentioned areas of concern include:

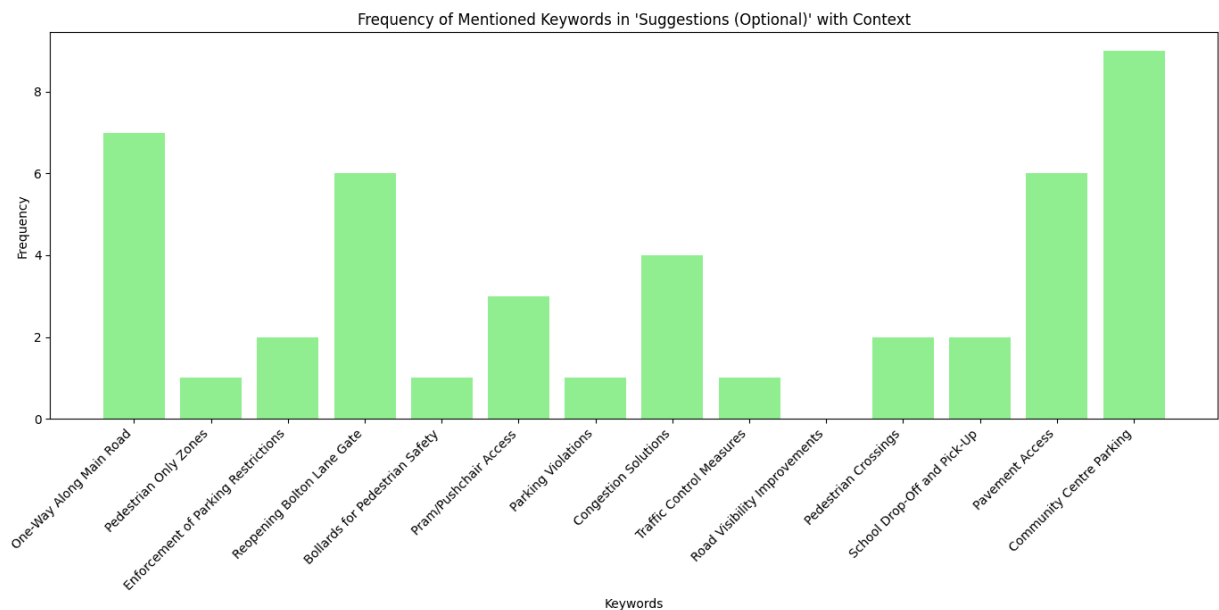
- Packet Lane
- Main Road
- Community Centre car park



4. Suggestions for Improvement

Community members proposed several solutions, including:

- **One-way traffic systems** through the village to reduce congestion.
- **Reopening the top entrance to the school** to alleviate traffic at Packet Lane.
- **Enforcement of parking restrictions** and additional measures to address illegal parking.
- **Improvements to pedestrian access** and infrastructure, such as widening pavements and enhancing footpaths for prams.
- **Investigating land acquisition** for additional parking spaces near the school.



Recurring Themes

- **Safety Risks:** Concerns about dangerous driving, inadequate pedestrian infrastructure, and blocked pavements, particularly impacting children and families.
- **Enforcement Gaps:** A perceived lack of parking enforcement contributes to persistent violations and a disregard for existing restrictions.
- **Infrastructure Limitations:** Narrow roads and insufficient parking exacerbate congestion, particularly during school drop-off and pick-up times.

Next Steps

1. Collaborative Initiatives with the School

- Share feedback with Bolton-le-Sands Primary School to explore feasible actions such as staggered opening times or reopening the top entrance, in response to Lancashire County Council's Highways letter (dated: 21 November 2024).

2. Resident Engagement

- Publish the feedback so far, and encourage more, given the response from Lancashire City Council.
- Continue gathering and analysing feedback to ensure community voices are central to ongoing discussions.

Conclusion

The findings from the community survey highlight the pressing nature of traffic and parking issues in Bolton-le-Sands and the critical need for collaboration between the Parish Council, local authorities, and the community to implement effective solutions.

The Parish Council is committed to pursuing all available avenues to ensure that traffic and pedestrian safety concerns near the school are addressed effectively. We thank residents for their continued input and support as we work towards a safer environment for all.

Lancashire County Council Parking Enforcement Information for 2024

Time Period	Enforcement Visits	PCNs Issued	Drivers Moved On	Observations
January to March 2024	19	15	Not specified	High frequency of DYL (double yellow line) infringements.
March to November 2024	5	3	4	Fewer visits, indicating decreased enforcement activity.
Total	24	18	4+	Persistent parking issues with reduced later-year enforcement.

Key Insights

- **Limited Enforcement:** Out of approximately 342 peak school time opportunities for enforcement visits from January to November, only 24 visits were conducted. This covers around 7% of all possible peak times.
- **Frequent Violations:** A high number of violations were noted during these visits, with 18 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued.
- **Early vs. Later in the Year:** Most enforcement occurred early in the year, with fewer visits from March onwards, this highlights a significant decrease in parking enforcement visits (**a 74% drop**) between March and November, which is especially concerning given the ongoing concerns.

Next Steps

To enhance safety and manage parking effectively, Bolton-le-Sands Parish Council and the Primary School believe that increased and consistent enforcement is essential along Main Road and Packet Lane, particularly during school peak times. We encourage continued collaboration among the Parish Council, school, and local authorities to develop long-term solutions to the community's traffic and safety concerns.

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December 2024