

Parish Clerk

From: Nattasha Freeman <Nattasha.Freeman...>
Sent: 01 November 2023 08:43
To: Martin Watson
Cc: Steve Stuart; Parish Clerk
Subject: FW: Accident waiting to happen - HS2/O'Brien works Water Orton Village

Importance: High

Restricted - External

Good morning Martin

I hope that you are well.

Just coming back to you at your request to ask for an update on the situation below. Outside of my role at WOPC, health and safety is my profession and accordingly I realise that the risks that I raised last year with you still remain. These are risks that the Council has been aware of since I initially raised them (the email below datestamps that concern), so in the event of an accident, the time taken to address them would be considered to have increased your liability in this respect.

What is needed specifically is:

- ⬇ The ground outside the park/playing field entrance to be levelled up so that the transition from the dropped kerb to the entrance is on a level and the level is smooth and without gradient;
- ⬇ For this area to become a no-parking area and signage advising people of this to be displayed;
- ⬇ Ideally for pedestrians/wheelchair/mobility scooter/pushchair users to be directed to use the park as a preferred route rather than use Vicarage Lane where you have no segregation for pedestrian/vehicular users*.

(* Please be aware that to avoid New Road where they know their speed is being monitored, there has been an increase in HS2 traffic using Vicarage Lane and their vehicles are faster and wider then standard vehicles used by the villagers: and these are driven by people who are not familiar to the area, and who may perhaps not be expecting non-vehicular users to vbe using that as a walking route.)

It has been a year now since I raised the need for a safer access onto the park/playingfield. With winter approaching the access will become more precarious not only due to the weather making the uneven ground outside the entrance more slippy but also because the footballers will park on the grass forcing wheelchairs/mobility scooters and pushchair users into a vehicular route: where it is dark at 4pm.

As I explained at last year's meeting the installation of the dropped kerbs at the end of St Blaise Road has introduced a risk which is now foreseeable: and which has been known to yourself for 12 months.

Kind regards,

Councillor Freeman, WOPC