**Car Parking Report**

Robert Allinson undertook considerable research as a result of the car parking problems raised locally back in 2022 and provided a report which was shared with the Academy, residents and the local community police officer. The report is attached herewith. There may be some duplication with the content below.

It is clear that this is an ongoing problem both around the Academy and around the local primary school and pre-school.

It is claimed that the problem increased some 4/5 years ago when the Academy wrote to parents asking them not to park in the school grounds. In actual fact parents have never been able to park in the school grounds to drop off/pick up their children other than in an emergency, but they have been reminded from time to time not to drive into the school between certain hours at the beginning and end of the school day when the buses are delivering and collecting children. Parents only drive into the school grounds if they have to pick up a child unexpectedly during the school day, have a meeting with a member of staff, or if there is some very special reason for delivering and collecting. A recent newsletter from the Academy sent a week before the end of term, reiterated the above:

“A reminder for those not already aware that parking restrictions are in place between 8.00-8.30am and 3.00-3.45pm to facilitate the movement of the school buses. During these times, only parents/carers who have a car parking pass will be able to come into the car park to drop off and pick up their children. If you try to come onto site without a pass you may be turned away. An additional reminder that parents/carers should only come onto site outside of these times if you have an appointment or need to speak to someone in the office and not to drop students off as the car park is used by students throughout the school day. If you are using the local roads to drop off or pick up your child, we ask that you are considerate of our neighbours. We have recently had reports of damage to flower pots in Denmark Gardens, caused by vehicles driving on grassed areas. Please do consider the impact of cars parking in the local area on residents and, if you are waiting to pick up, please remember to turn off your engine. Thank you and I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.”

On their website, the Academy offer to provide a database for car sharing and they encourage students to walk or cycle – the website also reminds parents to be courteous when parking locally.

The Clerk has written to The Academy to reiterate the concerns of residents and to ask them to continue to highlight these issues to parents on a regular basis.

The issue was raised at the recent Shotley Peninsula Alliance of Parish Councils and all villages reported very similar problems, although acknowledged that the problems experienced by Holbrook residents were greater due to having a secondary school as well as a primary school and pre-school facility. None of the schools had parking facilities other than for members of staff.

Holbrook Parish Council recently wrote to Holbrook Primary School where parking is also an issue and set up a meeting with their Road Safety Team and the Community Police Officer. As a result, the children in the road safety team have written an article which has been published in the Parish Papers. HPC are investigating whether they can put bollards onto the grass verges opposite the school and, if this is agreed, the Chairman has offered to buy some bulbs for the children to plant which should emphasise that the verges are a “no parking” area.

The clerk has consulted County Cllr Harley to try and get some accurate costings for a Traffic Regulation Order which would be required to introduce restrictive parking measures, should these be considered to be necessary.

A local resident has shown the Chairman signs used in Essex to restrict parking on roads at certain times of the day. However, these would also require a Traffic Regulation Order, which can be extremely costly and currently not within the Parish Council’s budget.

It has been suggested that the schools allocate part of their playing fields to accommodate parental parking, but there are government restrictions for the change of use of playing fields/sports fields and it is hard to see where a safe car park could be sited, with safe access. The driveway to the Academy is very narrow and cannot accommodate two cars passing each other and the buses have priority before and after school.

Researching the problem in other areas does not provide any clear solutions. One suggestion which has been implemented in other areas is to get parents to sign up to a parking pledge on joining the school. Further information on this can be found at: [5 Ways to Improve School Parking – 3PR UC](https://schoolparking.org.uk/3pr-resources/)