

**RISK ASSESSMENT CAR PARKING**  
**MARTON AND DISTRICT C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**MARCH 2014**

**Planning Application No:** 15/5637M

**Proposal:** Erection of up to 27No. Dwellings

**Location:** Land off School Lane, Marton, Macclesfield

# Risk Assessment School Parking Marton

## Introduction

The following risk assessment was conducted in March 2014 by two members of Marton Parish Council to establish the risk to parents and children attending the school and to the residents of Marton.

Since the assessment was carried out the school has improved its parking facilities within the school grounds for its staff. This has reduced the occasions the school staff have to park outside the gates on School Lane. The number of school buses has been reduced from 3 to 2 due to the reduced demand from the parents. This has resulted in children that have previously used the school bus now being taken by car.

The situation that exists today is not significantly different to what prevailed at the time the risk assessment was carried out. Future pupil numbers are expected to be static or slightly increased in the future.

The Parish Council is concerned that the proposed housing development off School Lane will compound an already dangerous situation. The additional cars leaving or entering the site at school arrival and pick-up time will be faced with oncoming traffic on the wrong side of the road. Their line of sight will be severely restricted due to parked cars and by children and parents walking down the centre of the lane to the school. The supporting photographic evidence taken at the time of the risk assessment and since, shows clearly cars parked at the location of the proposed access road off School Lane. Also as a consequence of the access road, parents will lose in the order of 6-8 vital parking spaces.

The Parish Council concludes that the risk assessment and photographic evidence gathered since show clearly that the proposed access road is not sustainable and would result in making an already serious safety issue considerably worse.

There has been no attempt by the applicant to address the safety issue or for it to be recognised as a problem by Cheshire East Strategic Infrastructure Manager in his Consultation Response dated 10 June 2015, although there is recorded evidence of the safety problem. (See following relevant section from Marton Parish Council response to planning application 15/2274M dated 20/6/15 part 2 "Highways safety, inadequate parking and access")

"Any increase in vehicle movements as a result of proposed development would make the current situation even worse. It would be both foolhardy and dangerous. Councillor Lesley Smetham in an email to Councillor Rachel Bailey (15 May 2013) recognised the problem and stated "I have been at the school at home time and seen carers with children in pushchairs and toddlers walking alongside weaving in and out of parked cars with huge coaches and passing traffic and no footpaths along a narrow country lane. It is most worrying".

At a meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 between the school and Marton Parish Council (see Appendix 1) both the school and council recognise that there is a safety issue for the parents, children and residents.

Stuart Bateman from CEC Traffic and Road Safety Team, following a visit to the school at bell time stated in an email dated 2 July 2013 "As the school is placed in a rural setting with narrow lanes, from a highway perspective there is not a great deal we can do. I would suggest the most appropriate course of action would be to create additional parking facilities within the school grounds".

Additionally when the leader of the Council, Michael Jones, attended our Parish Council meeting on 9 Feb 2015 on the subject of school parking he said 'the answer was not to carry out a risk assessment because there is clearly a danger to school children and therefore action must be taken'

## **Risk Assessment Car Parking Marton and District C.E Primary School**

There have been problems over many years with parking in the surrounding area to the school. This situation has deteriorated in recent years as a result of increased activity at the school. The introduction of a reception class, expansion of the school nursery and Cheshire East's new policy on assisted transport for children attending denominational schools has also impacted on parking. There is very limited parking in the school grounds and on occasions staff have to park outside on the road.

Parking spaces that have been used in the past by parents have also been reduced: white posts now border the grass verge on Oak Lane outside the school, and a large paved area in front of the school has flower planters strategically positioned to prevent parking for safety reasons. As a result, desperate parents have to use whatever space they can find, resulting in residents' drives being blocked, traffic jams and the use of unsafe verges.

The main area parents use for parking is School Lane. The lane does not have a footpath and is a narrow country lane. Parking can stretch all the way down School Lane to the A34 and on occasions causes problems on the A34. Parents, some with pushchairs and toddlers, have to make their way down the centre of the road, dodging in and out of parked cars to avoid passing traffic, which can include heavy farm vehicles and large 50/60 seater school buses.

Parents also park on the verges north of the vicarage. This area is close to a bend in School Lane. Pupils and parents are at risk from passing traffic and from collisions when reversing out onto the road. On occasions parking on these verges has blocked the road to large vehicles. This could have serious consequences if an emergency vehicle was prevented access.

### **How was the risk assessment carried out?**

The assessors referred to relevant guidance on the HSE website and drew on their experience in using risk management techniques gained in industry.

Assessment based on observation of a period of months/years and with input from local residents.

### **Assessment carried out by:**

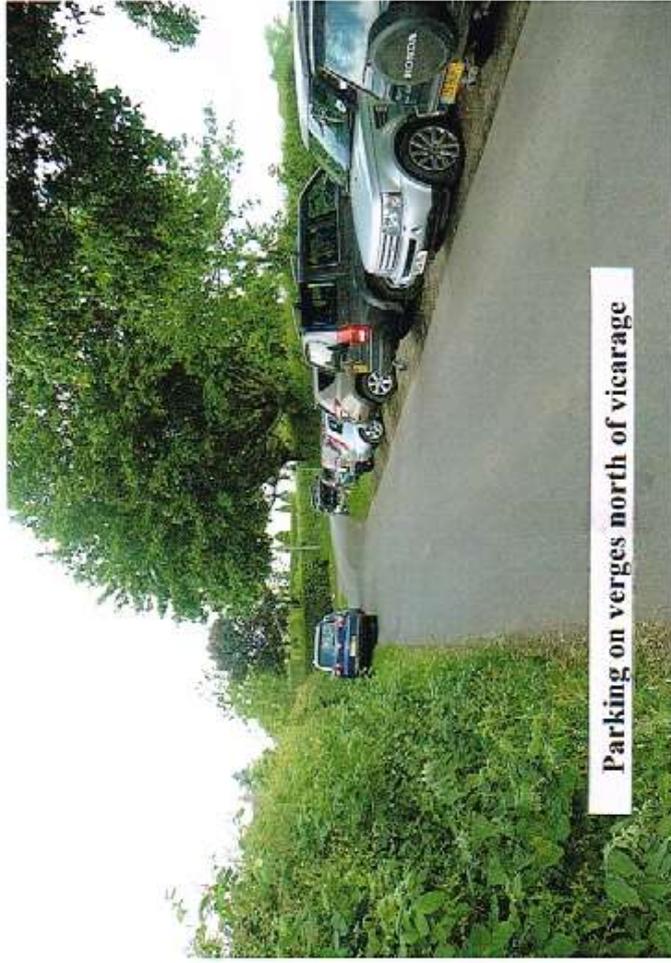
David McGowan (A.C.I.O.B.) Marton Parish Council

Dick Schwendener (C.Eng. M.I.E.T) Marton Parish Council

March 2014

**RISK ASSESSMENT CAR PARKING MARTON AND DISTRICT  
C.E.PRIMARY SCHOOL**

<b>What are the hazards</b>	<b>Who might be harmed and how</b>	<b>Possible solutions examined</b>	<b>Results of review of possible solution</b>
<p>Vehicles parked on School Lane. No footpath obscured view. Forced to walk down centre of road.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Parents, pupils and residents.</li> <li>* Serious and possibly fatal injuries if struck by a vehicle.</li> <li>* [note vehicles on occasions have to reverse due to congestion]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Provide a foot path on School Lane.</li> <li>* Encourage parents to use school buses.</li> <li>* Use a park and stride scheme.</li> <li>* Investigate sites for a school car park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Not sufficient space to provide footpath.</li> <li>* CEC policy on school buses has reduced use.</li> <li>* Viable car parks would require pupils to walk along A34 considered too dangerous.</li> <li>*Create car park in school grounds.</li> </ul>
<p>Parked vehicles on verges north of vicarage near bend in the road.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Parents, pupils and residents.</li> <li>* Serious and possible fatal injuries if struck by a vehicle.</li> <li>*Risk of collision when reversing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Install bollards to prevent parents parking on verges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Would reduce parking spaces for approx. 15 cars.</li> <li>*No alternative parking areas available.</li> </ul>
<p>Reduced road width due to parked cars on verges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Stops access by emergency vehicles.</li> <li>* Could result in loss of life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Inform parents of risks associated with parking on the verges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Parents notified of risk resulting from restricting access to emergency vehicles.</li> </ul>



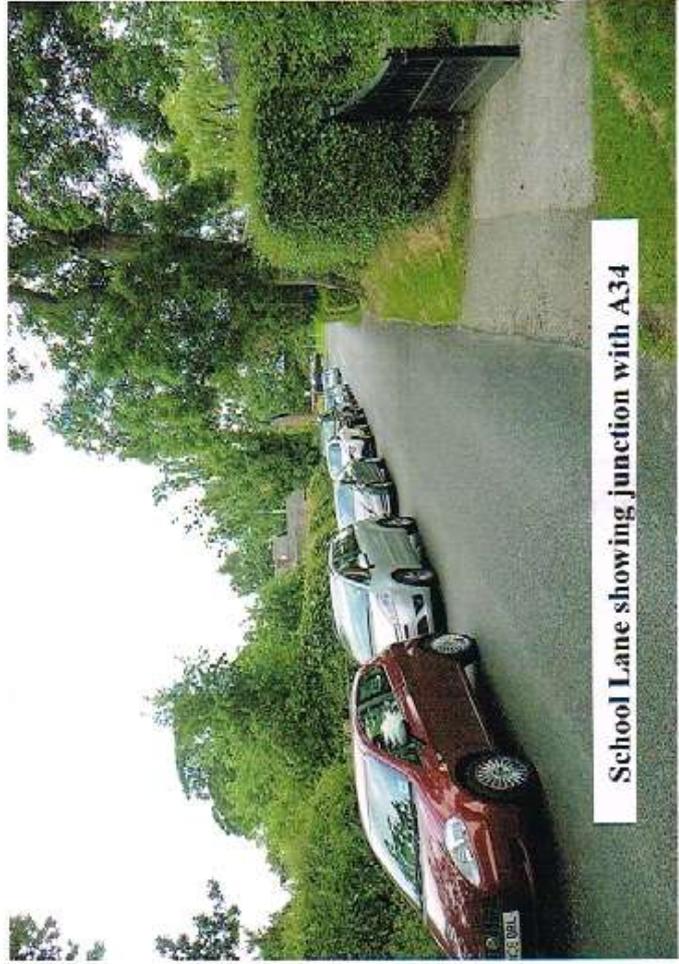
**Parking on verges north of vicarage**



**Parking on School Lane**



**Parking on verge north of vicarage**



**School Lane showing junction with A34**

## Supporting Photographic Evidence Recorded since March 2014

### Photographs Sheet A

Location: close to drive of Greenacre and directly opposite proposed access to the development site. Cars are reversing and carrying out a three point turn.

### Photographs Sheet B

Location: close to drive of Greenacre. Cars parked on School Lane to junction with A34 and south down the lane to the school.

### Photographs Sheet C

Location: close to drive of Mere House. Van can be seen reversing and parents and children alighting from parked cars.

### Photographs Sheet D

Location: close to drive of Mere House. View south down School Lane: parents and children waiting for vehicles to pass before proceeding down centre of road towards the school

### Photographs Sheet E

Location: School entrance showing congestion with school buses. Verges north of vicarage (near drive of Mere Barn) close to bend in road. Parents and children waiting for vehicles to pass before proceeding down centre of carriageway

Note: these photos do not necessarily show the most dangerous situations, as we have been careful to avoid taking photos of children—and of course it is just those situations, where children are walking between cars or in the middle of the road, that are the most dangerous.



A





**B**



C



D



E