


ORGREAVE PARISH COUNCIL
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10th April 2012

Chief Executive - Martin Kimber
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Dear Sirs,

Bus Service to Aston Fence J & I School and Aston Academy

The Parish Council have been contacted by many local residents who have raised concerns since receiving letters from RMBC informing them that the free bus service will cease at the end of this academic year for children travelling to Aston Fence J & I School and Aston Academy.

We have requested and received a copy of the Risk Assessment and Traffic Census/Gap Count carried out by Mr Lee and Mr Davey and raise the following concerns:-

- The route indicated is not safe as it takes children across the BS6200, which is a dual carriageway at the point of crossing, with the national speed limit.
- Your risk assessment states that there is no traffic movement in or out of the former Laycast site on Retford Road. We would like to bring to your attention that RMBC have actually approved planning permission for the Laycast site to become offices/units and work commenced on this site last year. There is currently heaving goods vehicles entering and exiting this site on a regular basis. One of the conditions on this planning application was that heavy goods vehicles have to turn right when exiting this site and not travel through Woodhouse Mill.
- The roundabout at the end of the BS6200 is raised from the road, with shrubbery on top of it. This makes it impossible to see whether vehicles are coming right round the roundabout - and therefore it is guesswork as to which way a car is travelling once it has entered the roundabout.

- The indicated route also includes the entrance/exit to the Company Jeld-Wen. This junction is wide and has a regular flow of vehicles which also include heaving goods vehicles.

We believe that the bus service is vital for the safety of the children travelling to and from school. The indicated route is not safe for children, some as young as 4 years old - even if they are accompanied by an adult.

Parents walking to Aston Fence J & I School may look for an alternative route rather than use the dual carriageway and may attempt to cross the road outside school which is still a 40mph road, which is, in our opinion too fast and unsafe for young children.

By stopping this service, to save £11K we believe you are also encouraging parents to take children to/from school in their own vehicles which will see an increase in vehicles parked outside both schools. This is already a problem at both schools for traffic flow and local residents.

The Parish Council have also been copied in a letter from a resident within our Parish, which includes a petition of over 300 names - which indicates the strong feeling within the community.

We ask that RMBC re-consider this decision and look forward to your reply to the above concerns at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully
for Orgreave Parish Council



Mrs Morris
Clerk/Finance Officer

cc: Councillor John Swift
Councillor Richard Russell
Andrew Lee / Nigel Davey - RMBC