



GREAT CHART
with **SINGLETON**
Parish Council

Parish Office,
Singleton Village Hall
Hoxton Close, Ashford,
Kent, TN23 5LB

13th July 2023

Sent via email

Dear Cllr Love

RE: Lack of safe walking routes to Chilmington Green Primary School

Thank you for your email dated 31st March 2023 responding to our letter dated 29th September 2022, and thank you for the update on the situation on the Chilmington Development at that time.

However, your response does not address the concerns that were raised in our letter, which are primarily that there is currently no safe pedestrian access to the existing Chilmington Primary School from areas outside of the development area, with no imminent solution to this problem. We are aware that there is work ongoing by the Active Travel team but there are still no solutions forthcoming. The school has been on site since 2021 with the only safe way of transporting a child there being by car, and with the third academic year on site due to start in September this is not acceptable from a safety point of view, but also from a forming a healthy lifestyle point of view.

In 2024 the secondary school is due to open, a school which by its nature will source the majority of its students from outside of the Chilmington area. The distances that these older, more independent, children can cover are greater than for primary, but again there are no clear plans for safe pedestrian or bicycle access into the area from further afield.

We understand that many of the proposed solutions are linked with house occupation numbers through s106 agreements, but given that the occupation rates are behind those forecast, and KCC's decision to press ahead with the schools on the original timescale, surely there needs to be some temporary solution implemented to 'bridge the gap' in the meantime?

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council request a meeting with KCC officers within the Education and Highways sections to take place within the parish. We believe you need to see the problem in person in order to understand the dangers children are facing on their school journeys. As you are likely aware, the school year ends on Friday 21st July, but parish councillors are willing to meet before this date if a solution to the problem can be identified before the next school year starts in September. Please propose a meeting date and time within the next 9 days. We would like to suggest that the meeting takes place around 3pm so that you can see the Chilmington Primary School pick up in action.

Yours sincerely

Paula Cowperthwaite
Deputy Clerk
Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

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