

Paula Cowperthwaite

From: Ben.Ackroyd@kent.gov.uk on behalf of Rory.Love@kent.gov.uk
Sent: 31 March 2023 09:10
To: Paula Cowperthwaite
Cc: david.adams@kent.gov.uk; Lee.Round@kent.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Lack of safe walking routes to Chilmington Green Primary School (10828)

Message sent on behalf of Rory Love, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Dear Ms Cowperthwaite,

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

Thank you for letter dated 29 September 2022 raising the issue of safe walking to Chilmington Green Primary School. I am sorry your initial email went unanswered. Your email of 28th February is the first correspondence that I have received on this important matter since becoming the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

The early delivery of the Chilmington Green Primary School was agreed to support the forecast housing trajectory. This indicated significant annual house building. It was also expected that the sustainable pedestrian access would have been delivered by Hodson Developments to the school. As you are aware, the development has not moved forward at the pace originally set out.

To support families in The Lakes and those living off Chilmington Green Lane, we have upgraded the public rights of way. We have also installed a new pedestrian footpath along Mock Lane from Public Right of Way (PROW) 240 to the front of the school, and new warning signage, which will have addressed the issue alluded to in point 1 of appendix 2 of your letter. In addition, there is now a 20mph zone on Mock Lane which extends from The Avenue to the road alongside the school. Between The Avenue and Chilmington Green Road, the speed limit is 30 mph.

I appreciate that the PROW works undertaken and the new pedestrian footpath, currently only support a limited number of families. It is indeed frustrating that those living in Chilmington Gate cannot walk down The Avenue to reach the school. Officers have engaged with Hodson Developments to look at how access along The Avenue can be achieved, unfortunately with no success. As this highway is in the ownership of Hodson Developments we are reliant on their support to gain access to the school.

The plans for physical links both within and to the development are covered in the s106 agreement. The obligations on the developer are triggered by housing occupations. While we have conversations with Hodson Developments about the issues raised, we are not able to require them to act outside of the obligations upon them.

I am aware that Ashford Borough Council Officers are looking at upgrading several pedestrian routes across the development. We are continuing to work with Ashford Borough Council on these important matters.

I trust the above information has brought you up to date on the current position.

With kindest regards,

Rory Love