**Ide Parish Council**

**Report for Parish Council meeting on 15 November 2017**

**Notes on meeting Thu 12 Oct 2017 08:30am**

Pete Bishop, Barry Hookins and I met this morning with Jamie Hewitt (Devon highways officer), Alan Connett, and Angelique Burwood (as a governor of the school), to discuss the possibility of changing the road arrangements between the Coronation Gardens and the Huntsman.

As we already know there are no easy or cheap solutions, and any change might meet resistance at least from those accustomed to using the 7 parking places that would be affected, however as a long term goal it seems feasible and initially looks popular. The school is likely to support it.

We considered a "No waiting" restriction at key school times as an intermediate solution, but this would require enforcement and might encourage parents to drive up to the school knowing there will be space to pull over.

It was pointed out that although the current situation is frustrating and unpleasant for all road users, it's not actually that dangerous at busy times because speeds are so low.

Jamie also stated that where there is no footpath all road users have exactly equal rights. There is no requirement for any group including pedestrians to make way for any other group.

There is little or no accident record to support the application on the grounds of safety. The clearer justification for the change would be as an environmental enhancement.

Any change involving suspending parking without also providing protection for pedestrians in the form of a footpath is likely to make the situation more dangerous rather than less. Parking restrictions or "virtual footpaths" will likely increase traffic speed.

So it seems its all or nothing - if we decide to proceed, we will be looking to provide footpath all the way at a cost of £25-40k.

Highways would probably not object to the proposal but would be very unlikely to pay for it.

Other funding and matching sources might be available if the issue is recognised and confirmed to have wide support.

Andy Swain, 8 Nov 2017.