



Christleton High School

Email from the Headteacher, sent to all Parents and Carers on 22/02/2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the recent news coverage of the cycling accident which occurred on the A41, prior to Christmas, I thought it was timely to provide an update on my discussions with the Local Authority on safety improvements.

I have had two separate sets of discussions as follows:

1. Christleton Parish Council have been very helpful in providing information and support in regards to improving cycle safety. They have been working with other Parish Councils to look at safety routes, not only within the village, but also on routes to the village from surrounding areas. In January, I was invited by members of our local Parish Councils to observe their presentations to members of the CWAC Executive regarding their plans for safer routes to school. Our local councils have carried out a tremendous amount of detailed planning and we now await further responses from CWAC.
2. Mr Smith and I attended a site meeting alongside the A41 in late December. We met with CWAC Highways Officers and they outlined their plans for improvements to the A41. I can now share those plans with you and a summary is included below:

A41 Improvement Plans - presented to the school by Highways Officers:

Short-term

1. Actionable defect repairs on the northern footway/cycleway of the A41 Whitchurch Road west of Pepper Street – these were completed week commencing 14 Dec 2020
2. Make representations to the Cheshire Road Safety Group and Police & Crime Commissioner for the provision of average speed cameras along the A41 route – complete, letter issued by the Chief Executive
3. Surface improvement (slurry sealing) of footway/cycleway on the north side of A41 Whitchurch Road between hamburger roundabout and Pepper Street – works will be programmed for March/April 2021
4. As part of the works in 3 above, install solid edge line marking on the footway/cycleway 450mm from the kerb to provide clearance zone to traffic – works programmed for March/April 2021 as above
5. Consider the provision of a temporary segregation feature in the A41 carriageway over the rail bridge where there is a pinch point in the width of the footway – if feasible install in March/April 2021

6. Manage vegetation/verge growth along a short section of footway on the northwest side of the A41 which links the canal towpath to Quarry Lane bridge – works to be completed by March/April 2021
7. Relocate solar powered vehicle activated traffic sign to lighting column numbered 20 to improve effectiveness – works to be scheduled for completion by March/April 2021
8. Investigate creation of shared user path (pedestrians/cyclist facility) from existing at Troopers Close to Quarry Lane bridge providing an alternative route to the use of Pepper Street – feasibility to be reported in March 2021

Medium-term

9. Undertake detailed road safety route study of the A41 from the hamburger roundabout to Broxton – underway and scheduled to report in Spring 2021
10. Install controlled crossing facility on the A41 at Rowton – approvals secured and works programme under development.
11. Progress design work for structural replacement of rail bridge and ensure that provision is made for segregated cycleway/footway facility – to commence Spring 2021.

Long-term

12. Replace rail bridge as referenced in item 11 above – programme to be determined
13. Commission a detailed study with Highways England/DfT/LEP to fully understand the strategic nature of the A41 corridor and identify potential strategic mitigations for the impact on communities along its length.

Clearly, the sooner work can begin, the happier we will all be that the A41 is as safe as it can possibly be for our students.

The timelines for some of the work has not been shared, and I would urge all parents and carers to keep the pressure on their elected representatives, to ensure that the Local Authority follow through with these actions.

You may also be aware of a petition that has been started to improve safety on the A41 - specifically for the installation of speed cameras. You can follow the link below to sign the petition:

<http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?id=139>

In the meantime, it is imperative that we all do what is needed to ensure that students are aware of the current dangers. Please ensure that your children leave home with a properly functioning bike, are clearly visible and wear a helmet. It is also vital that our students do not increase the risk of cycling, by acting in a way that endangers themselves and other road users.

Kind regards

D P Jones
Headteacher