

## Proposal to reduce traffic congestion around Benington Primary School

This proposal is put forward by the Governors of Benington Primary School (BPS) to try and reduce the congestion that occurs in the vicinity of the school in the mornings and afternoons.

### Background

BPS is located in Walkern Road, Benington, which, at the location of the school, is a narrow (5.5 metres) road, just capable of allowing two vehicles to pass.

There are no parking facilities at the school, except for a few spaces reserved for staff. Consequently, parents travelling by car to deliver and collect pupils have to park on the road. The road outside the school entrance is marked with 'School Keep Clear' yellow zig-zag lines and this is generally observed except by a small minority. Cars are therefore parked on the road to the north and south of the school entrance.

This parking reduces the road width to one vehicle and so causes problems with vehicles sometimes having to reverse up to 50 metres. When more than one vehicle is travelling in the same direction, this problem is exacerbated.

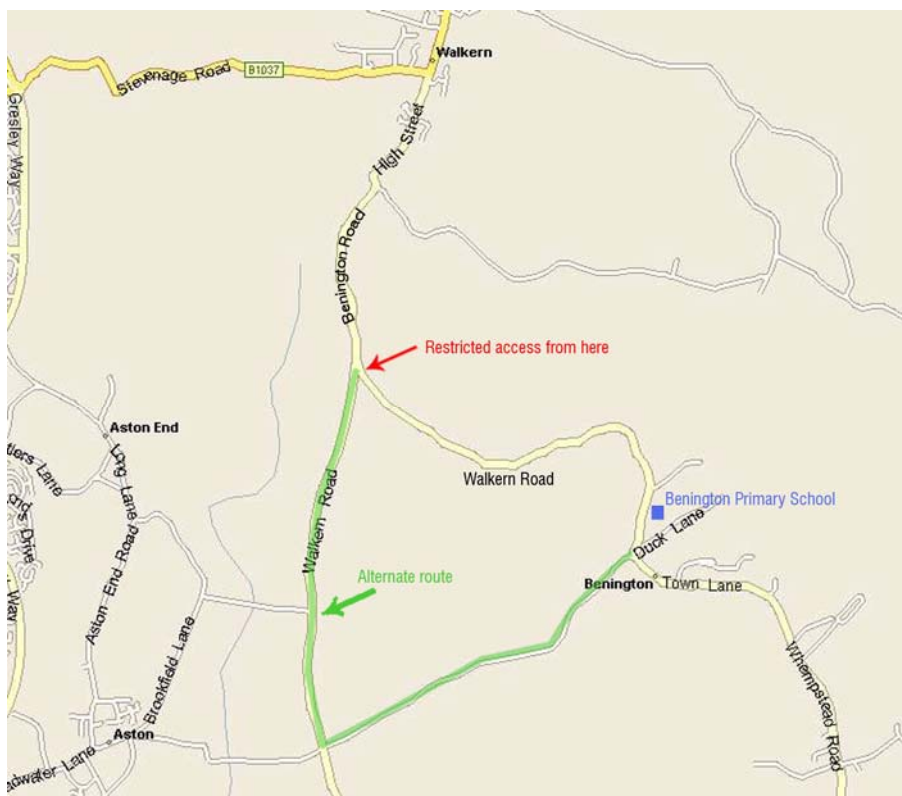
Alternative parking solutions have been investigated but none are available, except for a limited number of spaces in the Parish Hall which is approximately 150 metres from the school. Some parents do use this facility.

Walkern Road is used as a through route ('rat run') from the direction of Walkern and Stevenage to the A10 and Ware and is used by HGVs.

### Proposal

It is felt that if traffic using Walkern Road as a through route was reduced, this would help reduce the congestion problems around the school entrance.

The suggestion, therefore, is to restrict access into Walkern Road from the road between Walkern and Watton at Stone (known as Benington Road to the north and Walkern Road to the south).



Traffic wishing to reach Benington from the direction of Walkern would therefore need to travel further along the road between Walkern and Watton at Stone, turning left at Church Hill which leads directly to Benington Green. This route would only add 1.5 kilometres to the journey.

The suggested times for restricted access would be 8.15am to 9.15am, and 2.45pm to 3.45pm, Monday to Friday.

The proposal would not make Walkern Road one-way. Parents having dropped off children would be able to drive past the school, turn round and drive back past the school (as they do at present). Also, the small number of residents to the north of the school would also be able to travel south. However, this is a small amount of traffic compared to the through traffic that uses the road.

The 384 bus service for Stevenage to Hertford would not be affected as the arrival times at Benington are 07.27, 09.22, 13.52 and 16.12.

Refuse collection vehicles could be exempt from the scheme although rubbish collections are normally made by 07.30 and recycling collections normally around 09.30. Only 'brown bin' collections may be affected, but this is only once every two weeks.

The proposal would also make the road safer for children travelling to school by bicycle, which is encouraged by the school.

A similar scheme operates at Barwick Road, Standon, but for different reasons.



The restrictions would only be necessary during school term times, so the use of signs which can be opened and closed could be a consideration.

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Peter Kingsnorth  
Vice Chair, Benington Primary School Governors

peter.kingsnorth@btinternet.com  
01438 869 557

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