

Road Safety Issue on Salter's Road / Archibald Street that are of concern to parents of children at Archibald Street.

1. The zebra crossing on Salters Road, no longer has a School Crossing Patrol to control the flow of traffic. The reason why there is no longer a school Crossing Patrol at this point is that she left our employment. School Crossing Patrols are allocated at each site, this is based on set criteria which includes taking into account accidents, speed and road safety issues. Senior Managers have now decided that we would not locate a School Crossing Patrol Officer where there is a formal controlled pedestrian crossing facility in place and therefore we will not be replacing the SCP officer at this point. We are locating School Crossing Patrol officers at locations where no formal crossing facilities are in place
2. There is a lot of on street parking on Salters Road, which obstructs the follow of traffic, reduces visibility for drivers and pedestrians and has forced emergency vehicles to slow down or stop. See point 3
3. The speed limit on Salters Road is 30 mph, and some cars drive at this speed even though the width of the road, the amount of parked cars and its proximity to 3 schools suggest that 20 mph is a more appropriate speed limit. This speed limit has been put in place in Wansbeck Road South nr Regent Farm First School which is also a "main" road. We will request speed surveys to be carried out and respond once we have received the survey results. We would not look to remove the parking on the south side of Salters Road as this is a residential street and there is currently limited parking in the area. To remove any parking on Salters Road would only increase the speed of traffic and would be detrimental to road safety. We are however proposing to introduce some double yellow lines on the north side of Salters Road between Jubilee Road and Archibald Street to address issues with obstruction, access and road safety.
4. There is nothing to warn drivers on Salters Road that they are in close proximity to a school – no school signs or markings on the road and neither Archibald First School nor the Junior Academy are visible from Salters Road. Consequently only drivers who know Gosforth would be aware that the school is there. If there were signs then this could help to improve the situation in 2 ways, firstly it might encourage drivers to drive more carefully as they would be expecting school children. Secondly it might encourage drivers to avoid Salters Road at school run times. As local private schools have such signs (e.g. Woodbine Avenue), we would like to know why there are no such signs on Salters Road, given it is so close to one of the largest community first schools in Gosforth and one of the community middle schools. We have included this as part of the consultation for Salters Road.
5. There has been regular building work on Salters Road for approximately 6 months. This frequently results in the pavements being blocked and the crossing hidden behind machinery. When we had a School Crossing Patrol, an alternative crossing was usually set up, but this term there have no

alternative arrangements and pedestrians have been directed onto the road. This is not safe given the road is used by so many young children. When work is being carried out in the vicinity by Utility Companies we work closely with them to ensure that their works do not adversely impact on the surrounding area. Should any similar works be proposed in future which affect this area we would look to ensure that crossing facilities were not impacted.

6. There is no space to queue for passengers using the bus stop on the corner of Linden Road. This can result in pedestrians being forced into the road. We unfortunately cannot widen the footpath at this location and would not remove the existing bus stop as the only alternative location would be outside of a residential property where we would receive objections. The existing bus stop is near a crossing point and this ensures the safety of pedestrians when crossing in close proximity to the bus stop.
7. There is no crossing east of the junction with Ivy Road before the High Street which encourages pedestrians to cross from between parked cars. We can investigate your request to look at improving this particular junction; we cannot install a pedestrian refuge at this junction as the road is too narrow. Once we have completed our findings we will contact you in due course.
8. The Linden Road – Salters Road – Jubilee Road cycle route is difficult to navigate with a bicycle seat, bicycle trailer or trail a bike. There is no cycle access from this route to either Archibald Street or Gosforth High Street. Many cyclists use the pavement instead of the road. Anne Clarke, Cycling Officer to respond to you on this.
9. The junction of Salters Road with Archibald Street is narrow and is often blocked by cars. This leads to congestion of Salters Road, Archibald Street and the nearby back alleys. There are currently double yellow lines on the Junction of Salters Road / Archibald Street and we will pass this matter to Parking Enforcement for them to carry out any action they deem necessary. With regards to Lansdowne Place, a scheme to introduce additional waiting restrictions and other road safety measures is currently being progressed. This will be subject to a further consultation with affected properties before we arrange for implementation of the scheme on site.
10. Archibald Street itself is narrow and is not suited to the volume of traffic entering from Salters Road and has limited parking. This leads to traffic problems which result in our Head teacher, Mrs Bays, standing out the school every morning to try to address these (this amounts to 1.5 – 2 hours of her time every week which is taken away from running the school). We would not look to change the priority of the through traffic on Archibald Street, as this would encourage vehicles to speed and this would raise concerns from a road safety point of view. It would also encourage traffic to enter from other residential streets to avoid this junction. We can however ask Parking Enforcement to look into your concerns and carry out any enforcement they deem necessary.

11. Parents and our Head teacher have contacted the Council officers about these problems, but no action has been taken to address them. We would apologise that you have not received a response to the above matters raised. We unfortunately cannot trace any record of your original concerns being raised, as Cheryl Ford, Road Safety Officer is currently on maternity leave.