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Issue 01 • Volume 2

NEWSLETTER

BY: IONA ROGULSKI - TRANSPORT PLANNER



WHY YOU NEED TO PAY ATTENTION TO 1ST MARCH

www.responsibleparking.co.uk/secondary I am utterly thrilled to be able to finally announce the launch date for Kent's very first Responsible Parking toolkit for secondary schools – The Responsible Parking Squad (or RPS for all us cool kids)!

So let me give you a bit of back ground: We've all seen it (and at times contributed to it) - parking outside schools at peak times can often be erratic, infuriating and ultimately, unsafe for children and other road users.

We've had huge successes with our original Responsible Parking initiative, which was designed to offer advice and resources to enable primary schools to run their own initiatives and campaigns to promote a safer school environment. We even went on to win "Parking Team of the Year Award" at the 2014 British Parking Awards! (Yes, it is a real thing!) So we've built on this success and have been working hard to create the "RPS – Responsible Parking Squad"; the newest toolkit, especially designed for our Kent secondary schools. ...(continued on page 2)

BUT DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT:

Here's what Patrick Sawyer, Deputy Head Teacher at The Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs had to say about their experience, using the RPS toolkit: "At The Charles Dickens School, the majority of our student live within half a mile of the school. However many still arrive by car. Within the local area there are many other large schools and students within these also arrive by car when walking would be a viable alternative. Consequently there is much congestion outside of the school which makes it very difficult for students that do walk or cycle to have safe routes.

The aim of the RPS for our school is to encourage students to walk or cycle. This promotes better health for the students as well as creating more socialisation opportunity for the students. The RPS issued walking maps to all parents parking irresponsibly to provide details on an alternative safe walking journey to and from school for their child. Our students have for the last 3 years been working with local residents to reduce congestion caused by parents and provide safe crossing points for all pedestrians.

During the pilot week the RPS issued 26 "tickets" on the first day. However by the end of the week there was a significant drop in the number of vehicles using the main road outside the school and only 2 "tickets" were issued on the final day. This enabled a much better flow of traffic and better safer crossing conditions for all pedestrians. ...(continued on page 2)

@KENTSCHOOLRUN

followers: 43

" Just had a great meeting at st Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Broadstairs - taking big steps to tackle responsibleparking.co.uk " 23/01/2017

Kent school

www.responsibleparking.co.uk www.responsibleparking.co.uk/secondary www.kentconnected.org www.jambusterstpms.co.uk

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Part of our creation process, of course, involved a pilot scheme, which enabled us to team up with two fantastic Kent Secondary Schools – The Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs, and the Wilmington Academy in Dartford. Both sites tailored the toolkit to their individual needs during just a one week period. Staff, pupils and parents alike commented on the enormous success the RPS had in preventing and reducing irresponsible and dangerous parking around their schools' premises.

Our FREE resources include 5x RPS Hoodies per school (additional can be purchased), A5 RPS "Lesson Plans" & "Tickets" and of course, weather proof banners to really push your safer parking messages home! To get started with your school's very own Responsible Parking Squad just go to www.responsibleparking.co.uk/secondary and sign up on our "resources for school" page. My hope is that the website will be central place that

schools and parents can use to get inspiration for combatting irresponsible parking and promoting sustainable travel; therefore reducing the volume of cars at peak times and making the school environment safer.

Please do sign post your parents to the site and if you have any ideas that are not already listed on there, please contact me so that I can add it to the website to continue sharing best practice.



...continued

The feedback from students and local residents was very positive. After the pilot some parents returned to parking close to the school. However the RPS have continued their work on random days to reinforce the message. It is planned that the RPS will continue with further random days and another whole week in the early Spring. The squad are extremely keen and often ask if they can go out! This has promoted good discussion between students around the benefits of walking to school. I would actively encourage the use of an RPS at every school. The students have engaged extremely positively with this initiative and become more aware of the need for safe walking routes to and from their homes. Removing congestion near the school gates makes students feel safer when crossing the busy roads.

HEADS UP:

Get your STP squeaky clean

Coming Soon - We have been hard at work, getting everything ready for the launch of our partnership with Modeshift STARS. Once we have completed our final checks, all Kent Schools will at last be able to join the rest of the nation in becoming STARS accredited. More information on this in next month's newsletter or if you just can't wait until then; drop me a line!

Capital Grant Funding



The 28th February deadline is fast approaching! For those of you lucky enough to have been awarded grant funding, please note that your on site improvements must be complete and all photos, receipts and invoices uploaded onto the jambusters website by the end of February to receive your awarded funding! Apologies for those of you who have already done this, but just to be on the safe side I am arranging reminders from all sides!

www.responsibleparking.co.uk www.responsibleparking.co.uk/secondary www.kentconnected.org www.jambusterstpms.co.uk

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