

9th September 2021

Cumbria County Council,
Economy and Infrastructure,
Skirsgill Depot,
Skirsgill,
Penrith,
CA10 2BQ

For the attention of Ms. Laura McClellan

Dear Ms. McClellan,

**School Streets Initiative – Beaconside School, Penrith
Proposed Experimental Traffic Regulation Order**

Thank you for your letter dated 3rd September 2021 setting out these proposals and inviting comment. The following points are in no particular order and it may be that with the passage of time, other points will occur to me.

1. There are errors in the street names on the plan of the affected area of Scaws Estate. I have amended these, highlighted in orange and a copy of this is enclosed – not an encouraging start to the proposals.
2. Pennine Way on the proposal is described as the alternative route for north bound traffic. This would seem to the opposite way from existing and is bound to cause confusion for many who have used it southbound for many years. Alteration of existing signage will add to the cost of the project.
3. To indicate Hutton Hill, Brentfield Way and part of Brent Road as southbound is confusing as these roads are presumably to remain two-way so they are equally north and south bound.
4. The upper part of Hutton Hill between its junctions with Pennine Way and Brent Road (named Brent Road on your plan) is included in the restricted area. Any vehicle coming into Brent Road from Fell Lane and not being a ‘permitted’ vehicle will have to do a three-point turnaround, go down the narrow part of Fell Lane and re-enter the estate via Brentfield Way. Such ‘turnaround’ will be at a point with high density of school children. This and the proposals generally are likely to increase traffic flows in the narrow part of Fell Lane at times when traffic is already heavy.
5. The proliferation of additional signage will have a deleterious effect on the appearance of this part of Scaws Estate.
6. Will the signage operate 365 days of the year or only the approximately 200 days when the school is operational? If the former, this is going to be at least an additional inconvenience for users during the approximately 165 days when the school is not operational.

7. If the scheme is to operate only on school days, how will this be arranged? Who will cover and uncover the signs at appropriate times?

8. I think I am correct in my interpretation of the proposal that residents of the affected areas will be exempt from the restrictions. Would this exception extend to people calling on residents such as family, friends, carers, supermarket and on-line deliveries, taxi's, tradesmen, refuse and recycling vehicles? Are these and perhaps other groups regarded as being 'essential'? How will people know whether or not they are permitted? I presume that disabled and handicapped children's transport would be exempt as they would probably go straight into school grounds.

9. Who will monitor the system and prosecute offenders?

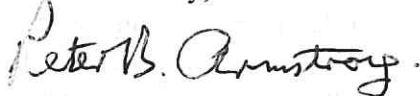
10. I presume that cars delivering and collecting children to and from school will not be regarded as 'essential' therefore not allowed in the restricted area. Where, then, are they likely to park? No doubt other neighbouring streets will suffer. Such areas are likely to be the lower part of Hutton Hill, the part of Brent Road just off Fell Lane, Barton View, Horsely Terrace and Scaws Drive. Has this aspect been assessed? Would it simply move the location of the problem?

11. Have any other potential solutions been investigated? Car parking for child arrival and departure within the school site area? Setting back the boundary fence and hedge along part of Brent Road to allow a parking bay whilst maintaining two-lane traffic flows with double solid lines where not possible? A proper pedestrian crossing over the upper part of Hutton Hill (present unmarked crossing) and double solid 'no parking' lines either side of it.

I am the first to admit that finding the ideal solution, acceptable to all, will be almost impossible. The ideal solution of course would be for all children to walk to school, but the reality today is that this is just not possible for many families.

I wish you the best of luck in finding this solution.

Yours faithfully,



Peter B. Armstrong

