

New EP Collier School traffic plan "raises risk of accidents" say campaigners

The Bell Tower Community Association has criticised the councils plans to improve the roads around EP Collier School



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E.P Collier School (Photo: Google)

New traffic restrictions around a central [Reading](#) school "inevitably raises the risk of accidents" says a campaign group.

The Bell Tower Community Association has criticised [Reading Borough Council's](#) plan to try to improve traffic management around EP Collier School in Ross Road, Reading.

As part of the school's expansion plans, the council's traffic management sub-committee proposed to introduce a 20mph speed limit around the school and alter some of the waiting restrictions around the school.

The plan also involved putting zig zags outside the school to reflect its new entrance and extending the double yellow lines around the school.

But the group has raised fears the moves are "potentially detrimental to road safety" and believes they could encourage more parents to drive their children to school.

The original plan was to remove a "School Keep Clear" sign from the road, which the group also raised concerns about.

However, the school has since changed the plan which means the sign will now stay.

The group is also concerned about the plans to extend double yellow lines around the school which they say will reduce the "already limited" residents' parking in the area.

It also disputed a claim made at a meeting on Thursday, November 3, that there was no entrance to the school in Ross Road, pointing out the staff car park entrance is in that road.

Community association chairman Jonathan Dart said: "The general facilitation of taking children to school by car, will do nothing to mitigate and will probably exacerbate the rise in vehicle movements during the school run caused by the expansion of EP Collier.

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"More traffic inevitably raises the risk of accidents, and Bell Tower has no desire to see anyone, particularly a child, from or in our community injured or possibly even killed as a result.

"These changes are potentially detrimental to road safety and are at the expense of local residents' amenity in the shape of parking spaces.

"They also run counter to the council's stated policy aim of [reducing the number of car journeys made to school](#).

"We sincerely hope that our fears on road safety turn out to be unfounded."

In response to concerns about the staff car park Councillor Tony Page, the council's lead member for strategic environment, planning and transport, said parents should not be using the staff car park in Ross Road to drop their children off.