

Charlie pleads with council to up safety outside school

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An 11-year-old boy, who was nearly run over as he walked home from school, is joining a call for action before someone is injured.

Charlie Baggaley is a pupil at Roydon Primary School and was crossing Old High Road with two friends when they were involved in the near-miss.

"This was because cars were closely parked on the side of the road, which led to the driver's and our limited visibility," he explained in a letter to Norfolk County Council.

All parents were worried about their children's safety, said Charlie, and a safe crossing should be provided, either by a zebra crossing or by painting double yellow lines.

Traffic congestion and road safety outside the school has been a problem for years and a recent £5.75 million expansion, which has increased pupil numbers, has made the problem worse, said mum Lisa. Inconsiderate parking had created a blind bend and there was no safe crossing place.

Although Mrs Baggaley understood an application had been made for zig-zag and double yellow lines outside the school, she also understood it would be several more weeks before they would be painted.

Headteacher Sarah Bradford said that, since the near-miss, some of the parents have recognised the danger their parking poses and she hopes others will follow suit.

"It is unfortunate that the process of making a traffic regulation order is so lengthy, but we are hopeful that double yellow lines will be in place



Charlie Baggaley, James Thompson and Oliver Fairweather outside Roydon Primary School.

Picture: Mark Bullimore

before the end of this term," said Mrs Bradford.

"We have repeatedly asked parents to park considerately and to prioritise our children's safety. The village hall offers free parking and is only a five-minute walk away.

"Unfortunately, some parents feel their time is more important than our children's lives, and they put everyone in danger by parking too

close to the school gates."

Parents wanted to know why safety measures could not be taken in the meantime.

A Norfolk County Council spokesman said: "While pupil numbers will rise during the coming years, the school roll has not yet substantially increased.

"A new crossing point has been constructed, new "keep clear"

markings have been introduced and vehicle-activated speed restriction signs have been installed. New double yellow lines are planned.

"In the meantime, site contractors are placing no parking cones on the road at drop off and pick up times. Existing markings at the original school entrance continue to be in place and new ones have been laid in front of the new entrance."

Council praised by group after applications are opposed

The chairman of a Fressingfield campaign group has said he is delighted after the parish council formally lodged its opposition to three building applications at a planning committee meeting.

Plans for John Shepherd Road, Stradbroke Road and Post Mill Lane in the village could see a total of 66 new homes built across the three sites.

But councillors at last week's meeting said they had a range of

concerns with the applications, including increased traffic, safety of pedestrians and issues surrounding drainage in the village – something that have been a constant problem for residents.

John Castro, chairman of the Supporters Against Fressingfield Expansion (Safe), said: "I am delighted that the council opposed these developments, because they will be bad for Fressingfield. This decision is what the majority who

live in this village wanted."

A survey by the group to villagers around two years ago found that 94 per cent of people were against any further housing being built in the village – a point Mr Castro feels still rings true today.

He said: "Due to the fact that our single bus service has been cut, our school is virtually full and we have had five episodes with overflowing sewage here since October, it just goes to show that the village's

infrastructure is not fit for any more homes."

There will, however, be a minimum of 50 new homes in Fressingfield, as another application had previously been agreed.

Mr Castro said: "This will show we are already over committed as it is and prove we cannot cope with any more building in the future."

The three planning applications will go before Mid Suffolk District Council in the coming months.

Play area committee needs people

Botesdale Parish Council is looking for residents to join a committee to develop the village's play area.

The recreation ground regeneration sub-committee, which held its first meeting on December 9, wants to look at how it can improve or replace parts of the village's play area, which is in Old Mill Road North.

Council clerk Leeann Jackson-Eve said: "We want to look at how we can fund and arrange changes to the park as some of the equipment, though still safe to use, is around 15 years old. We'd also like to make it more inclusive, so that everyone can enjoy it.

"We are looking for anybody who wants to join the committee, particularly parents with children of all ages, so we can see what ideas they have for the play area."

The clerk is hoping to get around 10 people to join the committee, which currently has three members, before the next meeting in the village hall on February 10 at 7pm.

Anyone interested in joining should email clerk-botesdale_pc@btopenworld.com.

Tributes paid to Diss mum

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"Samantha was one of the first to order from Revolution before it was well known," said David. "She was invited to the brand's fourth birthday party in Marylebone by founder Adam Minto."

The announcement of her death triggered an outpouring of grief and support from her thousands of fans.

One person wrote: "I am deeply saddened to hear this. She was such a joy, a ray of sunshine. May you forever be filled with beautiful memories of her."

Another one said: "My heart hurts for everyone that loved her. She was so sweet. Just a beautiful human inside and out."

Samantha leaves behind husband David, children Danny, 29, Jasmine, 27, Ebony, 23, and Brandon, 21, twin sister Debbie, mum Rachel and seven grandchildren.

In accordance with her wishes, no funeral will be held and her ashes will be scattered.



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