

To the TARSAP Committee, for the meeting to be held on Monday August 10th 2020

I am writing to you as Port Folio Holder with responsibility for Education and Children's Social Services.

I believe that this statement is relevant to Appendix A.

I am writing to the Committee to register my concern at the proposed timetable for the implementation of the changes to the Public Space on George V Avenue.

These works have been put on hold since July following concerns expressed by Nower Hill School.

I am grateful for the action taken by the Council to delay implementation and I am requesting that serious consideration is given to a further delay.

Everyone now recognises that it is imperative that schools fully reopen in September but it is not generally recognised that this will in fact be a tremendous undertaking.

Returning to school will I believe be quite a step for many children, young people and families after such a long time.

There are many things for families to worry about who want safety and protection for their children, who will themselves have been affected by so many months at home; so that returning to school will feel more like a step into the unknown rather than a simple return to familiar surroundings.

This will be a particularly stressful time for young people leaving primary school and going to high school for the first time.

In order to protect their children, many families will want to take them to school by car, perhaps many more than would usually do so, and this will be made much more difficult with the proposed changes.

Schools will have themselves to adjust to changes and new responsibilities in "The New Normal" and they want to make return to school as easy as possible for children and young people.

We need to support them, to prioritise the return to school and offer support where we can.

I think we can help by implementing as long a delay as possible before the works are done.

This will allow the School and families to settle into the new term and adjust to the many changes which they, as part of society are going to face.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christine Robson

Port Folio Holder for Children, Young People and Education.