Oct/Nov 2022

To whom it may concern,

I am a family member of a child, currently attending St. Anthony’s Primary School, Larne.

I wish to express my grave concern for the health and safety of each child, parent, family member and visitor who uses the school car park.

The surface of the area is very uneven and full of unavoidable, large and often deep potholes. There are no official markings to designate parking spaces or direction of travel. Most importantly, there are no designated pedestrian walkways to ensure safe movement of children and adults. We are extremely fortunate that there has not, to date, been a serious incident causing significant harm, or worse, to anyone.

The school community has made efforts to direct traffic in a manageable way and installed temporary signage for a 5mph speed limit to try to encourage safer driving but it is the responsibility of the Department of Education to ensure the school site is safe for use and properly maintained.

Access to the school building, from the car park, is via a set of steep steps which are difficult to negotiate, particularly with young children, infants and prams. There is not yet appropriate accessibility to the school building. This is not acceptable in 21st Century.

While there has, historically, been an issue around joint ownership of the car park area, the school Principal , Ms Fleming, has kept us informed of negotiations and I know the vesting process has been completed. There is, now, no impediment to upgrading the area to an acceptable standard.

In the current climate we all must manage our finances but DE have a legal responsibility and, despite only needing to have a central section of the area vested, have not, over many years, maintained the rest of the area for which they have had responsibility.

No further delay is acceptable.

This project must be given priority, on Health & Safety grounds.

Regards