

Town Farm
116 Main Street
Askham Bryan
York
YO23 3QS

Mr Terry Walker
Public Transport Planning
9 St Leonard's Place
York
YO1 7ET

COPY

25th March 2006

Dear Mr Walker

Askham Bryan school bus to St Mary's CE Primary School, Askham Richard, which does not have Seat-belts.

We are writing to you to express our concerns regarding the Askham Bryan School bus which currently does not have seat-belts.

There are more than 19 pupils using the school bus regularly with an age range of between 4 and 11 years old.

Our main concern is the safety issue due to not having seat-belts. Because the children are of such a young age, they do not always remain seated through out the journey. A huge concern, due to the safety implications, is if the bus was required to stop suddenly. Only the other day, 10th March 2006, there was an accident involving a car and the milk man just minutes before the bus, what would have happened if the car had collided with the bus?

This would not be an issue if the children were restrained by a seat-belt.

In a letter, copy enclosed, from York City Council in July 2005 you state "The underlying principles are to ensure child safety and to minimise car journeys and congestion in the villages." This was with regard to a dedicated school bus. Surely you are not ensuring child safety if the bus does not have seat-belts fitted.

Parents of a further 9 pupils said that they would use the Askham Bryan school bus if it had seat-belts on. This would considerably ease the continued congestion and complaints by the residents of Askham Richard, and would also have a beneficial impact on the environment.

The majority of Askham Bryan Parents currently using the school bus are very concerned that during the journey to and from school their children are at risk because they are not wearing seat-belts. **We would never make even a short car journey without wearing a seat-belt why should a bus be any different?**

The other school bus provided by Selby Council to transport St Mary's children to Bilbrough and surrounding villages always has seat-belts, as do all the buses used on school trips. It is Law that school trips cannot go ahead unless the coaches have seat-belts. We feel that the same laws should apply to school transport.

Please find attached the names and addresses of the 19 parents with 28 children who would continue to use, and potentially use the Askham Bryan School Bus if it were to have seat-belts.

For the safety of our children we are requesting that you provide a school bus with seat-belts immediately.

We look forward to hearing the action you are going to take on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Hughes
On behalf of Askham Bryan Parents

Cc

- **John Grogan, Labour MP for Selby Constituency**, Tadcaster Business Centre, 4-6 Bridge Street, Tadcaster, LS24 9AL
- **Anne McIntosh, Conservative MP for the vale of York & Shadow Minister for Family welfare**, House of Commons, London, Sw1A 0AA.
- **Janet Hopton, York Rural West Ward Councillor**, The old Vicarage, 11 Church Lane, Nether Poppleton, York, YO26 6LB
- **Mark Ellis, Head of Access**, Mill House, North Street, York ,YO1 6JD
- **Mrs Rawling, Acting Headteacher**, St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Askham Richard, York, YO23 3PD.

To: All Residents of Askham Bryan

July 2005

Dear Resident

Askham Bryan school bus to St Mary's CE Primary School

I am writing to all residents in response to parental concern about the designated morning school bus that was changed to a public service route last September to offer residents a public transport link to York College and York

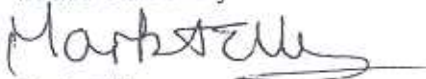
Since that change, more parents are using their cars to take their children to school which is causing congestion in Askham Richard outside the school. One possible solution would be to establish the route as a school special only, and not allow the public to travel on it, in the hope that it will encourage parents to send their children to school by public transport. We do appreciate the potential inconvenience that this could cause to the community although use by the public is currently low.

Therefore the City of York Council is seeking the views of the community before taking a decision. If there were to be a change in access to the bus service it would come into effect from September. Any change would be on a trial basis; if children continued not to use the service but the public wanted to, then clearly it would be the right move to restore public access to the route at that time. If far more children used it and there was support for a dedicated school special, the Council would probably think it appropriate to continue the dedicated service. The underlying principles of the proposal are to ensure child safety and to minimise car journeys and congestion in the villages.

If you have any views on this please contact Mark Ellis, Head of Access, Education and Leisure, Mill House, North Street, York YO1 6ZG or email: mark.ellis@york.gov.uk

We would appreciate any comments or views by Friday 5 August.

Yours sincerely



Mark Ellis
Head of Access