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FIFTY FINED FOR DRIVING TO WORKINGTON BARKER CROSSING FOOTBRIDGE

By Jenny Barwise

Last updated at 12:03, Saturday, 09 January 2010

Fifty motorists have been fined £30 for driving along no access roads to drop people off at the Barker's Crossing footbridge in Workington.

One woman is worried for her daughter's safety walking to the footbridge at night.

Elaine McCormick, who lives at the top of High Seaton, said that a lot of people want to drop their children off and pick them up at the bridge to make sure that they are safe – especially when it gets dark early.

Her 18-year-old daughter, Katy, uses the bridge on a Tuesday night on her way to and from the Lakes College. She also uses it when she goes for nights out, to visit friends and to go shopping.

Elaine said: "I think it is ridiculous that a family member can't pick her up. We want to watch our children to make sure that they are safe. I worry when she goes shopping, to college or for nights out in the town centre.

"I think that everybody feels the same. It isn't that long ago since there was sexual attacks in Workington and nobody was ever arrested for them.

"I am one of many mothers concerned about their daughters."

Mrs McCormick said that it is a 10-minute walk from where people are parking their cars on Calva Brow when they use the bridge.

A Cumbria Highways spokesman said that traffic controls were put in place around the footbridge to keep disruption to a minimum and ensure there was a safe access for pedestrians.

"With high volumes of pedestrians walking to and from the bridge, the proximity of traffic could pose safety concerns. Allowing vehicles to drop passengers off right at the bridge could also lead to congestion problems as this area around the bridge is not suitable for heavy traffic."

Since the middle of December, police have issued more than 50 on-the-spot fines either side of the bridge.

Inspector Mark Wear said that residents told police they were concerned with driver and pedestrian safety.

"We are committed to tackling local concerns so we have been running regular patrols in the area to enforce the law and reassure people that the area is safe.

"We want people to be able to use the crossing and the surrounding area with confidence so, since the middle of December, we have been issuing warnings and fixed penalty notices to drivers flouting the laws by entering the no-access area around the bridge."

He added that drivers who continue to ignore the laws are putting themselves and others in danger by entering the area illegally.

Police are now looking to start removing vehicles parked illegally there.

"There is a regular bus service which takes people to and from the crossing and I would urge people to use this rather than break the law and face a £30 on the spot fine," added Insp Wear.

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Have your say

A wheelchair user friend of mine was told by a senior police officer that he could be taken down to BARKERS CROSSING and the car to be returned to a suitable parking place.

Posted by yeoman on 15 January 2010 at 11:56

It needn't be like this at all if the council and police had the will to make it work for pedestrians and cars. How hopeless are they. I get the feeling they are very much arrogant and stubborn and once a decision is made, that's it.

Posted by Richard on 15 January 2010 at 09:28

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