

1. Foreword

Dear parents, teachers, pupils, and staff caring for our children,

Above all, the APEEEL1 Management Committee would like to warmly thank all participants in project Lollipop. Thank you all for giving us and our children your time and help.

Here is a summary of what the lollipop participants noticed and learnt during the event, with some possible solutions and approaches.

The aim is that the authorities and institutions take our voice into account to tackle the problems affecting the security of our children and us around the school to become invested in the goals APEEEL1 have proposed, which are:

- Systematic help for our Primary children to cross the busy roads around the school. The according support and actions are the responsibility of national and local authorities and institutions.
- Removal of the 'international bus station' next to the Primary school, parking on rue Léon Hengen. This bus station is situated opposite to the normal school bus station.
- Increase the time of the green traffic lights at the kiss & go to allow cars to leave quicker.

Please find below a summarized feedback.

2. Findings

2.1. Regarding the need for assistance, we identified many problems which occur at most junctions on the Boulevard Konrad Adenauer.

- Many U-turns (over 10 each morning), some dangerous for pedestrians, disturbing the traffic. Parents turning before or after dropping their kids, especially close to the secondary entrance.
- Some pedestrians including older pupils cross from the middle or the whole boulevard even when red lights are on.
- The time some traffic lights are green for pedestrians is too short. Small children have difficulty to cross within the given time.
- Cars stop next to the secondary school when there is no traffic behind but then can't move as traffic approaches because there are children to offload. This causes knock-on effects at the pedestrian crossings and Kiss & go.
- People of all ages - adults (not only the ones with kids), secondary and primary pupils - cross the road outside of crossing points.
- Special mention to the cross road between secondary school, the Konrad Adenauer car park and Rue Coudenhove-Kalergi (to the maternelle).

This is probably the most dangerous place as cars and pedestrian go in all direction, the street is completely full of cars in all lanes at rush hour. Cars rush to pass the junction, passengers of all ages rush to get off the bus and cross the road regardless of the pedestrian crossing. They can be very young (5-6 years old), without any adult supervision.

The back log of cars exiting/entering the maternelle car park also has knock-on effects around the corner: cars can get stuck in the middle of the pedestrian crossing while it is

green for pedestrians. The resulting traffic jam on Boulevard Konrad Adenauer goes back as far as the secondary school, which is made worse by the bus stop just before the corner.

2.2. The situation at rue Leon Hengen: buses but not only.

- Along rue Léon Hengen, buses are parked on the road with the drivers absent. These buses block the access to the bus lane meaning other buses then have to overtake on the opposite lane: crossing other buses, cars and children. In addition, they honk the cars who drop off kids instead of their colleagues blocking the lane. The cars themselves make dangerous manoeuvres.
- On the other hand, parents parking on the Rue Antoine-de-Saint-Exupéry and then walking their kids to school are making it impossible for the buses to park. The other buses who transit through to turn left or right have trouble manoeuvring.
- At the intersection with Adenauer, pedestrians going to the centre de formation cross the rue Hengen when the light is red for them and green for cars. When this happens, no car can cross at all.
- The green light at this intersection is way too short, theoretically it lasts longer when there is no bus but often it remains red when there is no bus. The buses themselves are stuck to turn to rue Hengen because cars cannot quickly evacuate due to the above-mentioned short green light and bus parking.
- Often in the mornings and each afternoon, there are cars parked by the side of the school bus station, in the pedestrian area-parc de la Coque.
- Some parents are driving up the road past the Coque, dropping the kids off and then do a U turn and drive in the bus lane to avoid the traffic jam ahead.
- A very few but usually the same parents park their cars every day on the side of the road on the little "island" at the top of the road.
- Several staff members did not want to wait in the queue of traffic to get to the entrance of the school car park and chose to drive down the bus lane quite fast, which makes it dangerous for the children crossing on their own.
- Some parents use the bus lane to drop their kids and the situation becomes worse as months pass. Guards also often park there.

2.3. The "Kiss and Go" ins and ...outs

- In the morning, due to the short green light, parents cannot leave the Kiss & Go quickly. There is a bottleneck at the entrance where cyclists, pedestrians and cars are mixed at the same time. The resulting traffic jam blocks the vehicles including buses along Konrad Adenauer, which in turn blocks the parents in cars as well as the buses, all trying to leave rue Léon Hengen.
- Some parents who want to escort their children to the school gate park for so long - over 15 mins and this causes problems for other people trying to drop their children off.
- Most of the parents use the Kiss and Go in a proper way but every now and then, a few of them block the pedestrian and cycle path.

- In the afternoon, too many people park for a long time, sometimes hours, preventing others entering to pick up their kids and inducing knock-on effect on the boulevard.
- At both times, some drivers even reverse back out of the Kiss & go onto the main road to leave quicker.

3. SUGGESTIONS

3.1. For authorities and Institutions

- City to provide crossing guards from 8:00 to 8:45.
- U turn prohibition: have additional NO U-TURN signs placed at every junction in front of the schools. Maybe some physical obstacles but car and bus drivers should still be able to turn normally.
- Better calibration of the traffic lights/green men all around (all longer including cars and pedestrians?). The lights at the end of Hengen should also be set up in a smarter way, they can detect if there are buses, they should also be able to give the green light for cars as soon as the buses have exited the junction.
- Ban buses parking along rue Hengen.
- A signpost should be installed at the entrance of Kiss and Go like they have at Lycee Vauban.
- Mark the cycle path in front of the school more clearly as a cycle path to raise pedestrian awareness of potential cyclists.

3.2. For the school

- School should be holding training sessions for all age groups in how to use and respect the crossings, maybe some staff could join additional lollipop events, their presence could be a trigger for pupils' behaviour.
- Parents should not park for so long but some with the youngest children at the main entrance, which would make them leave more quickly. Children used to do this in the past, why can't we go back to it and why are we still forced to send them to the grids?
- Possibility to enter the Nursery school through the door on Coudenhove-Kalergi to encourage use of the university car park or Nursery car park as an alternative.
- In some restricted cases e.g. when the nurse calls the parents to pick up an injured child, the school should allow parents access to the school carpark.

3.3. For APEEEL1, parents and pupils.

- Liaise with authorities and school for the requested changes.
- Liaise with the police and school for the organization of the training sessions.
- Raise awareness of parents (us, you) that bad behaviour endangers children and is making all parents an easy target for the authorities to ignore us as a party.
- Remind everybody on a regular basis that parking for long periods in the Kiss and Go creates problems in the immediate area. It is already prohibited but parents ignore the fact.
- Parents volunteering as crossing guards 'lollipop people' could help younger children, but this is a responsibility with risks (and how would they be identified?)
- If we ask the city to forbid parking in the bus lane, we should insist that parents don't park on the bus parking areas, either close to the school or in the immediate vicinity.

- Try to establish a rota of volunteer parents to act as 'lollipop people'.
- Push most parents to go to the Adenauer parking but:
The collateral problems will occur: tides of cars from all directions trying to get to the very same point before struggling to escape and more children that will cross at what is already the worst overloaded intersection. In addition, this parking will be destroyed in the coming years. Not perennial neither secure.
- Liaise with the fonds and the administration des bâtiments publics to get a vision of the upcoming changes and the requests that should be presented before it becomes a "fait accompli".

4. Conclusion

The APEEEL1 does not try to judge or to decide who could be held accountable: we all work towards the same goal to improve the security of our children. We need the decision makers to take into account the opinion of the parents on the safety of children, because many changes have taken place without us parents being involved.

We realize that we all want the best for our kids and we are aware of the fact everyone must cope with work hours, traffic on the road, tired kids, obligations and many reasons that make us sometimes act in a irresponsible manner.

Nevertheless, and although we are not the only ones moving around the neighborhood and having an impact (other people work, and train etc), we would benefit from all of us improving the way we behave, whatever the mode of transported used.

This improvement would also prevent the authorities from blaming us all for the behavior of a minority, and to prevent them responding to this by changing the access to the area around the school for the worse. Instead, we want them to commit to helping our children and us with positive actions.