

The Eaton Village Residents Association

Traffic and Parking around Eaton Primary School

www.eatonvillage.co.uk



Dear Resident

January 2016

In October EVRA were invited to meet with Eaton Primary School to discuss traffic and parking concerns raised by parents. The meeting was attended by School officials, a parent representative and the Transport Planner from Norwich City Council. The meeting was called at the request of parents who were concerned about road safety issues arising from inconsiderate parking and several near-misses between cars and pupils.

The purpose of this letter is to seek your views on potential ways forward.

Parking and traffic around the school at the start and end of each school day has been a problem for many years and the EVRA Committee and our local Councillors are regularly contacted by Residents affected by this. There have been many meetings between EVRA and the School, Police and Councillors to find a resolution but with little success. EVRA attended the “new parents” meeting at the school in June last year and appealed to the attendees to be considerate about parking and driving around the Village and to try and walk or cycle if possible. The school has a travel plan in place and newsletters regularly remind parents about parking and to encourage other methods of travel to school. Almost every school in the area has a similar issue with parking and traffic during school runs.

The school travel survey has identified that around half of the 390 pupils travel by car and that this has been consistent for some years. The most recent surveys have shown that the closure of the gate between the Golf Club and CNS has not increased car usage.

However, the problem persists and the parents themselves have become increasingly concerned about the behaviour of other parents and the risk this poses for their children. In particular, the parents cited parking on corners and on footpaths as a key concern as this restricts vision for cars emerging from side-roads and prevents buggies from passing by. So in essence this is not an issue caused by the residents but by the inconsiderate behaviour of some of the school parents.

The City Council outlined the options available such as yellow line parking restrictions in the affected roads – top end of Greenways, Ellcar Rise, Purtingay Close, Duverlin Close, Fulton Close, Bradenham Way and lower sections of Brentwood. The restrictions could be limited to school drop off and pick up times and during term time only. However, there is a shortage of parking enforcement patrols to regularly check and enforce such restrictions. It is highly likely that parents would then park beyond the restricted areas causing parking issues in other parts of the Village. EVRA believes that blanket restrictions would be unfair to residents but that there may be scope for targeted restrictions such as yellow lines on the corners of the most affected roads. There are currently parking restrictions at the turning area on Ellcar Rise adjacent to the school but these are sometimes abused. The ideal solution would be for parents to change their behaviour and for fewer children to be driven to school.

We could just leave things as they are but here are some questions for you:

What is your view on the use of parking restrictions to deal with the traffic and parking issues during school hours?

Would you like to see restrictions in place and if so where and during what times?

What other solutions do you think could be considered?

Let us know through the Contact Us section of the EVRA website: www.eatonvillage.co.uk, via email to: evra.vc@live.co.uk or drop a note into the EVRA postbox next to the cashpoint in Waitrose.