

Responses received from residents and school parents via email and EVRA Postbox – Updated 22nd March 2016

Thank you for the recent update on discussions concerning traffic and parking problems in the roads near Eaton Primary School.

The problems are, as you rightly say, caused by inconsiderate parking and those parents (and others) who park on pavements need to be targeted directly. Yellow lines in Ellcar Rise, even if operative only at school times, would inconvenience many residents since most driveways are very short and accommodate only one car - which means, for example, that when both our sons visit us, one would be prevented from parking near our house, and would consequently inconvenience someone else. I would therefore not support the introduction of parking restrictions.

Since letters addressed to all parents seem to have had little effect, may I suggest the printing of a small number of leaflets which could be fixed in some way to cars which are parked on footpaths pointing out to individual drivers both the inconvenience caused to other parents and especially to elderly residents, and the fact that although parking on a pavement is in itself not an offence (except in London), causing obstruction by so doing is illegal and punishable by a fine of up to £1,000. Such a leaflet should be issued on behalf of both the Residents Association and the Police and/or the City Council.

Reopening the walking route through Eaton Golf Course would reduce car traffic considerably. This use to be a well used route which has been replaced by driving. Reopening this route would reduce traffic considerably.

To add that the closure of the golf club gate has also added to general traffic in Eaton as CNS students are also driven - we have direct evidence for that. Everyone is wondering about your strange statement that the gate closure has made no difference - ,we directly know of 10 families now driving who previously waked via the golf course.

There is considerable concern about your impartiality and ability to carry out this survey fairly. All the comments on the primary school fb site echo the same concerns. The gate closure has been and continues to be a major issue for local families which needs to be addressed.

I would like to see yellow lines put along all the affected roads as is the case with the roads around Waitrose. We have a lot a cars parked on Greenways during the day(School time) and Saturday mornings.

There is also a very dangerous turn from Brentwood onto Greenways which should be looked at. I've seen a few close things with cars turning right onto Greenways and there are always cars parked opposite the T-Junction on Greenways.

Other solutions – 20mph speed limit? Often speeding cars at well over 30mph along Greenways. Parents who drive to contribute to cost of traffic warden?

The Norfolk County Council plan that is linked on the EVRA website is not the school travel plan. In any case, it is rather dated (7 years old), doesn't show the location of the new Cringleford school and still shows the path across the Golf Course car park as viable route to Eaton Primary School. A recent newsletter from the Conservative Party stated the discussions between the Golf Course and (City?) Council were still ongoing, but currently the path remains blocked.

As far as I understood the School Manager (cc'ed) there is no school travel plan in place at the moment. However, the school governors' (chair cc'ed) were planning to discuss a new school travel plan on Tuesday this week (25 January). Clearly, a major issue is the very high proportion of children being driven to school (about 50 %), as also identified in the post on the EVRA website.

I understand from a recent newsletter from the Head (sent on 25 January 2016) that the school is going to create a new entry/exit to the school via the Early Years playground (which butts on to Ellcar Rise) and install additional covered cycle and scooter parking. Re-opening the currently fenced-off former entry/exit at Ellcar Rise was one of my suggestions at the meeting we had at the school in October. It will allow motorised and non-motorised traffic streams to be separated better (with vehicle access via Duverlin Close and Purtingay Close), making it safer for children and parents walking and cycling to school. Additional safe cycle and scooter parking facilities should make these non-motorised modes of transport more attractive, as seen in other similar schemes.

A walking bus (or "bicycle train") was another suggestion I made at the same meeting. The post on the EVRA website suggests this had already been tried, but as far I understood the School Manager, the school didn't want to commit to this because it felt it would be held solely responsible for the operation of the walking bus. The Waitrose car park has been suggested as a starting point for such a walking bus, but this would only be attractive for parents travelling further afield than Eaton Rise and Eaton Valley. The school has the residential addresses of its students, which would show how many potential users of such a walking bus there are (the maximum presumably being the number of parents accessing the school via Newmarket Road/Church Lane). If there was sufficient (potential) demand, the actual implementation might not require more than some initial start-up help (risk assessment, hi-viz vests, standard operating procedures) and a small amount of ongoing support (insurance, DBS screening fees of volunteers), rather than day-to-day involvement.

Lastly, unless there is a drastic change to travel patterns, it would be worth regularly repeating the messages and educational campaigns on considerate driving and parking (i.e. keeping driveways and intersections free; driving and parking on the road [not on pavements]; leaving sufficient space for buses, coaches and bin lorries, etc.)

Just to clarify, I attended the meeting in my capacity as a concerned and interested parent (the other invited parent couldn't make it), but I wouldn't go as far as calling myself a parent representative.

Consultation on traffic and parking around Eaton primary school

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

I accept that living close to a school will inevitably cause some traffic congestion as there will always be some parents who wish to use their cars, often for good reason, to transport their children to and from school.

Restricting parking on the roads near the school will encourage the use of alternative means of transport.

Congestion can be minimised by permanently restricting parking on corners.

Congestion can be minimised by ensuring that parking only takes place on one side of any road while not obstructing driveways.

Congestion can be minimised by ensuring that deliveries to the school and unloading takes place within the school premises.

Background

Some time ago Eaton Primary School introduced a one-way traffic system for school traffic to enter the school via Duverlin Close and exit via Purtingay Close. However after the installation of barriers it has become extremely difficult for delivery trucks to enter the school. Several times a day large trucks reverse all the way up Duverlin Close and park outside the houses at the top of the Close to unload material. Once unloaded the trucks then drive down Duverlin Close against the oncoming traffic. Many cars are often parked in Duverlin Close and eventually there will be an accident from large trucks being required to reverse a full 100 metres. Also when the trucks are unloading it restricts access into the school and access to the houses at the top of Duverlin Close. It is apparent from discussions with the delivery drivers that the gateposts and barriers have restricted the entry so that the larger trucks are unable to enter the school and turn into the school car park. This is compounded by the fact that the entrance is also restricted by cars parked directly opposite the entrance in the car park area designated for disabled parking.

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

Place permanent parking restrictions on corners close to the school

Place temporary parking restrictions (during school drop-off and pickup times during term times) on one side of each of the roads close to the school.

What other solutions do you think could be considered?

Create an unloading area for delivery vehicles in the school car park.

Make changes to the school entrance and exit to enable large delivery vehicles to turn into and out of the school car park.

Ensure that cars are not parked close to the entrance and exit of the school car park restricting large delivery vehicles unloading and turning into and out of the school car park.

Ensure that all trucks and vans delivering to the school unload within school premises.

Ref School Parking

Following your request for views on the parking near and around Eaton Primary School, here, as a resident of Duverlin Close, are my opinions.

Firstly, living where we do, we expect traffic and we expect times when it will be busy, the biggest issue is the lack of consideration by those parking and not the traffic itself. Secondly, the issue is as much with playgroup/Eaton Elephants as it is with the school. Parents frequently park inconsiderately, in front of residents drives and then proceed to turn around in our drives.

Today, Wednesday 27th January, a parent from playgroup parked directly outside a driveway, in spite of there being nothing else parked on the hill.

Thirdly, if yellow lines are installed, residents, their visitors and any tradesmen working at the properties risk receiving parking tickets or will have to leave prior to the enforcement times or if a resident with two cars has a day off and they only have a single drive, they would have to move during the restriction.

Fourthly, the yellow lines on Ellcar Rise have no effect on the parking there, unless the PCSO happens to be walking past as people arrive, so therefore I suspect painting yellow lines on any other road will also have little or no effect.

In my opinion the school, the clubs/groups that use the school at weekends and evenings and playgroup just need to remind and educate parents about considerate parking, ask them also to think could an emergency vehicle get past their car? and have a little respect for residents properties . As I mentioned at the start, I expect traffic, the school was here before I arrived 17years ago and it will still be here after I have left, but in the meantime, don't punish residents with yellow lines.

The school may also want to remind its staff and visitors that there is an entrance and an exit, as several people seem to enter and exit by the entrance gate.

Maybe one Saturday the residents of the worst effected roads could ask a fire engine to try and get past if we parked inconsiderately and the school could video it and put it on their website.

As a resident at the top of Purtingay Close I feel yellow parking restrictions for 8.15-9am & 2.45-3.45pm during term time on this road & duverlin close would deter parents from parking here.

These roads in particular are narrow & are key access points to the school. To keep the children who are walking to school safe it would be in the best interest to keep the roads clear.

On a fairly regular basis I witness near misses between cars & children. Cars park across the pavements forcing children to walk on the road behind other cars reversing into the turn around bays.

I live next door to the school & my 3 year old was almost hit by a car reversing down the pavement & they had not seen her at all. I feel if my children are not safe living in the close proximity that we do it must be worse for others walking up these roads.

Although I appreciate these parking restrictions wouldn't be enforced regularly I would be able to have more justification for asking people to move.

I am writing with regard to your request put through my letterbox dated January 2016 concerning parking and traffic concerns relating to the Eaton Primary School. I live on Duverlin Close which is literally next door to the main entrance to the school, with my husband and two year old boy after moving here in November last year. Since moving in we have of course noticed the congestion which occurs at the start and end of school days and occasionally at the weekends when classes are run, which usually means cars are parked outside of our house, down the road and surrounding streets. I have no real issues with the cars being parked on the street, even those outside of our property as they are generally considerate and do not block the drive and are there for such a short duration of time. In addition we are a two car household due to commuting requirements and at present our drive can only fit one car, resulting in the second being parked on the road outside. For this reason we do **NOT** wish to see parking restrictions added to our road at any time as this parking is required by us as well.

However, I am concerned by the number of large vehicles, including lorries and bin lorries which appear to be unable to conduct their business with the school on school grounds and so result in dangerously reversing backwards up the length of Duverlin close and then idling outside of the school gates blocking all traffic whilst they conduct their business on the street. I fail to understand why the school does not allow for these vehicles to go on site when it is the school using their services. It is my view that the school should be made to make changes in order to permit these vehicles within the gates to conduct all of their business and that none should be allowed to dangerously reverse up the roads and block entrances.

I also feel that the school should have a drop off point within their grounds for cars to enter and drop off their children and leave again but if space is restricted, then feel the accommodation of the large vehicles should be the priority.

I have been reading all the articles on the school traffic so I have written down my views.

We live at the top of Purtingay Close so we are severely affected by the school traffic. It is something we feel very strongly about as we make a particular effort not to use our car during busy times and we are amazed at the bad behaviour of 'busy' parents.

I cycle to work but I always leave before 8.15 to avoid the school traffic but even at this time there are cars parked on Purtingay Close. It is dangerous for me to cycle down Greenways any later as I have had people opening their doors into the road without looking for cyclists and people turning in front of me.

We organise our life to avoid driving the car down Purtingay Close at the start and end of the school day. We would probably continue to do this even if there was less traffic on Purtingay Close to help keep traffic off the roads at times when there are lots of children about.

The only way to prevent parents from driving their children to school is to restrict their parking within 100 - 200 metres of the school, not coming up Greenways beyond the corner (Atmere Close) . This would make the top end of Greenways near the school safe for pedestrians and cyclists, which hopefully would encourage more parents out of their cars . However I do not know how this would be enforced. I personally would not want yellow lines outside my house.

Here are some examples of bad behaviour which we see regularly:

Parents parking on corners which restrict visibility

Parents parking half on the pavement up Purtingay Close meaning that children have to either cycle on the road or negotiate the narrow pavement. Also difficult for parents with buggies.

Parents coming right to the top of Purtingay Close to drop their children off then having to back into the turning space whilst parents and children are cycling up the road into the school.

I think that introduction of parking restrictions will be ignored by many parents anyway unless parking enforcement patrols were regularly enforcing the restrictions. Those who would take notice would still need to park somewhere, and therefore the issues would just be moved slightly further from the school.

One issue that could reduce the volume of cars that need to park would be resolving the golf club gate closure issue. There are a lot of parents who live in the Eaton rise area who would like to walk to school, but can no longer do so as safely or conveniently as before. The alternative route is significantly longer and is also much more dangerous. I think more Eaton residents would mind about this if they experienced the route that children now have to take to CNS. I have personally witnessed several near misses and if there really is no hope for the gate reopening then something needs to be done about the visibility on the corner of Sunningdale joining Newmarket, and some kind of crossing at that end of Sunningdale.

To summarise I would not like to see any parking restrictions put in place, but I do think improving walking routes would encourage more families to walk, reducing the number of cars.

Ps The school travel plan linked to from the EVRA website is completely out of date. Cringleford school has moved! And the golf club gate is still shown as a walking route.

Sorry this is so poorly written and I actually have more comments to make but I have run out of time! So am sending as is, but to be continued... (from a school parent AND Eaton resident)

Part two...

I would also like to highlight the fact that in seven years walking children to Eaton Primary I have never once been surveyed about how I travel to school, nor have the other parents I've asked. If these surveys have actually happened I am astounded that they do not show more traffic since the closure of the golf club gate. Even if the increase in traffic levels when the gate closed were coincidence (as it happened at the same time as the poor Ofsted report came out which probably increased intake from out of catchment) there are certainly more cars!

Lastly I find the paragraph 'where do we go next?' To be quite worrying. It states the problem is 'not Eaton residents' and only 'some school parents'. It has a very 'them and us' feel about it. Although I understand what is meant by it, many school parents are also Eaton Village residents (many of whom do drive to school from within Eaton). As one of the many 'school parents' who don't fall into the inconsiderate drivers/parkers category I still found myself quite offended by it. It would just be nice if EVRA and the school could see themselves as one community. Apologies if I am overreacting but this is how the post reads to me.

Thanks for taking the time to read my mammoth emails, I wish I had more helpful suggestions but as the council say inconsiderate parking around schools will always be an issue. If EVRA know what the current situation is with regards to the golf club gate I would be very interested to hear an update?

what about the driveway blockers parking in wakehurst close? some of whom drive up from lindford drive to drop their kids off?

Thank you for the recent newsletter regarding parking around the Eaton Primary School. As you know I live in Ellcar Rise and see a lot of what goes on regarding the poor parking. It's now 12 minutes to nine and there is a Chevrolet car parked in front of the sign for restricted parking in the turning area at the top of the street. Another car has been and gone which parks almost in the bushes.

This Chevrolet parks there every day and was there for at least 20 minutes yesterday. Without the regular visit of a traffic warden there is nothing at present that can be done.

We are not going to get official help in this matter for one short piece of yellow lines and for poor parking which is actually quite good compared to some other schools in and around the city.

I would suggest a team of volunteers, parents and residents, are given training as to what constitutes illegal parking and the legal paragraph that states it, so once a driver has been given 2 or 3 warnings they are reported and the traffic dept. sends an official letter saying one more report and a notice of fine will be issued.

Hopefully 5 or 6 teams of two could be trained and do a week at a time. A co-ordinator would collect all the reports and forward to the traffic dept. every couple of weeks.

If this goes ahead, then it would be possible to print off sheets with the list of parking offences and tick the one that applies to the vehicle in question. A log would be kept of all notices issued.

This would extend the idea Julie had when speeding was a problem and she wanted to get a speed gun for the area and train volunteers to use it.

To: Chairman
E.V.R.A.



I have read your circular letter re the ever increasing traffic problem at the top of Greenways etc. Most of the congestion and dangers occur on the two bends in Greenways - the sharp right bend opposite Almere Close (often obstructed with non-school parking) and the deceptively tight bend (left, coming up Greenways between Brentwood & Bradenham Way. Much of the problem is caused, as you say, by the parents themselves by parking badly on pavements and across private drives, forcing parents with buggies to either use the road or indeed people's front gardens, in places.


On my sketch map (attached) I suggest the use of yellow lines on both sides of the road at Almere Close - Elcar Rise, also

(2)
(inside)

on the left hand ^(inside) side of the bend from Brentwood - Bradenham Way. While the parking is both sides of the road here it is sometimes very difficult (or impossible) for the bus to get past

On the outside of the bend between Bradenham and Elcar Rise, how about the use of small concrete bollards set in the kerb to stop people parking on the pavement - this could be used in other places as well.

I have indicated  BOLLARDS
YELLOW LINES
(NO PARKING AT TIMES)

 THE MOST DANGEROUS SECTIONS.
ie where most of the children and parents (also cyclists) cross the road

In relation to parking behaviour another annoyance especially in summer

