

Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Plan

School Parking and Traffic Problems

Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Planning Group

Lytchett Matravers Primary School Questionnaire

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The questionnaire distributed by Lytchett Matravers Parish Council in early 2014 raised a number of points concerning the traffic and parking issues around Lytchett Matravers Primary School.

Dorset County Council had some similar concerns around the School Crossing Patrol in terms of safety and soundness.

The Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Planning Group arranged for a questionnaire to be distributed to all parents of children at Lytchett Matravers Primary School to obtain further clarification of the issues and potential solutions.

This questionnaire was distributed in July 2014.

Lytchett Matravers Primary School Questionnaire

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Lytchett Matravers Primary School Questionnaire

1. INTRODUCTION

A. Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire Response

The Lytchett Matravers Parish Council (LMPC) and Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Planning Group (LMNPG) had distributed a comprehensive questionnaire at Christmas 2013 which extended through to January 31, 2014.

There were a total of 673 responses to the questionnaire from 1,580 dwellings in the parish, a response rate of 42.6%.

The full results of the questionnaire responses were presented to the parish at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 26, 2014, which is hosted by the LMPC on behalf of the parish.

Question 8 of the questionnaire asked residents;

‘When considering the increasing level of traffic along the main roads, do you consider the present parking and speed controls to be adequate? Are there areas of Lytchett Matravers that you feel would benefit from speed restrictions or traffic calming? The responses were as shown below:



Wareham Road and in particular the area close to Lytchett Matravers Primary School generated many of the accompanying comments (see References for link to the full questionnaire report). Most of the concerns referred to the parking and traffic issues around the school and the potential safety concerns for the children.

A number of residents close to the school had written to both Purbeck District Council and to Dorset County Council about their concerns. These concerned the level of parking across pavements and verges and the safety of children crossing the road in multiple places in order to get to their respective cars.

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Since the Lytchett Matravers Primary School were also concerned about the safety of their children and the School Crossing Patrol, the LMNPG decided to investigate this issue further. A number of meetings were held with the Lytchett Matravers Primary School representatives from their Governing body and the result of those meetings and the plans developed formed the basis of the questions asked.

Lytchett Matravers Primary School has been active in promoting 'Walk to School' weeks and has encouraged the formation of a Walking Bus from the Lytchett Matravers Recreation Ground to the school. These initiatives have been run for many years, but have not had a long lasting effect to date.

Lytchett Matravers Primary School has around 430 pupils ranging from ages 4 to 11. Approximately 40% of these children come from neighbouring areas outside of Lytchett Matravers.

Lytchett Matravers Primary School has also canvassed its parents from time to time and estimates that approximately 200 children regularly travel to and from the school by car.

Significantly changing the use of cars for parents is beyond the scope and reach of the LMNPG. There are 3 key initiatives that can be promoted to mitigate the issues:

1. Encourage walking to school and establish new safe routes to make that as easy as possible. Re-open the proposal to use the path from Eldons Drove to the rear of the school field as an additional entrance and exit point.
2. Remove the bottleneck caused by the bus stop to give more space around the school crossing patrol area
3. Develop additional parking spaces at the entrance to the Lytchett Astro that can alleviate parking on Wareham Road and the surrounding roads. This could be incorporated into the bigger plan to develop further sports facilities behind the school field, with direct links to the Lytchett Astro and with access from Eldons Drove.

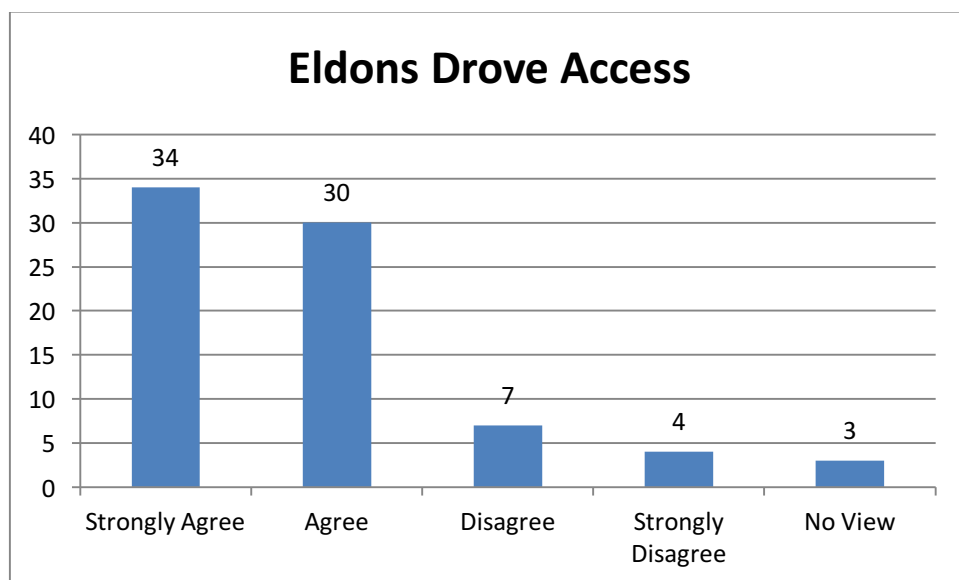
A total of 78 replies were received.

2. QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

A. Eldons Drove

There is a potential alternative access to the school via Eldon's Drove. This could relieve some of the traffic on Wareham Road and solve some of the problems immediately outside the school. It might also make parking at the recreation ground and walking a more attractive option.

Do you agree to the plan to open up a school entrance via Eldon's Drove?



The response rate was highly in favour of exploring this option.

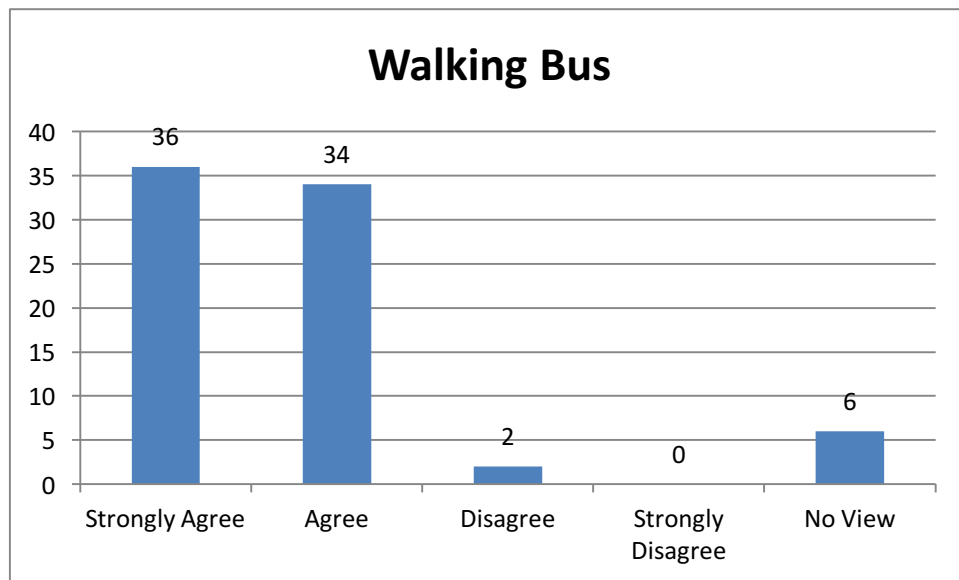
This will be included by the LMNPG in the scope of the full Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Plan.

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B. Walking Bus

A walking bus has been set up to help alleviate school traffic. The route of the walking bus is from the Village Hall and along Eldons Drove to Wareham Road and the school.

Is this a good idea?



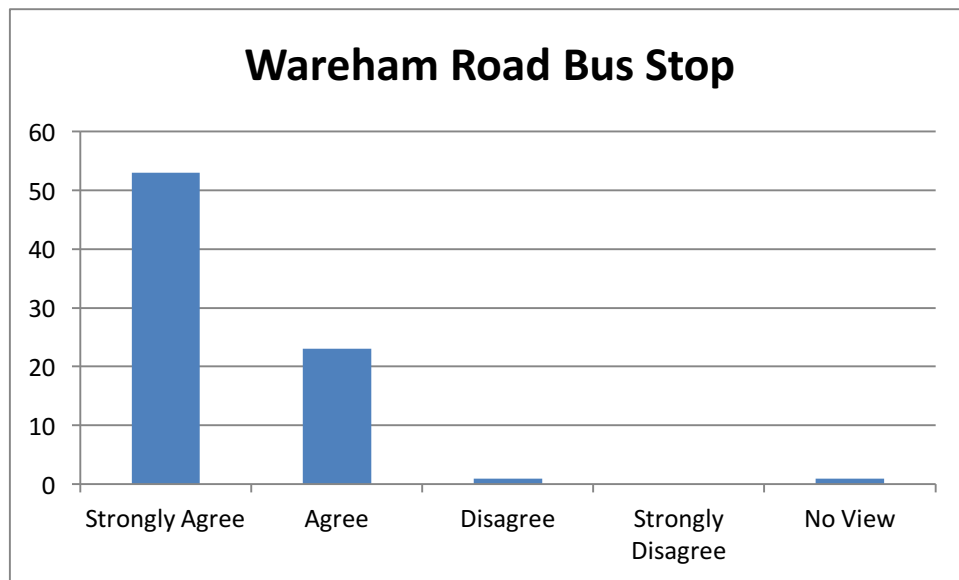
The response rate was highly in favour of exploring this option.

This will be included by the LMNPG in the scope of the full Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Plan.

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C. Wareham Road Bus Stop

The bus stop is immediately outside Lytchett Matravers Primary School partially obstructs the pavement and can cause problems with pedestrians just at the school crossing patrol point. There is a proposal that the bus stop be replaced in order to widen the pavement at that point.



The response rate was highly in favour of exploring this option.

This will be included by the LMNPG in the scope of the full Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Plan.

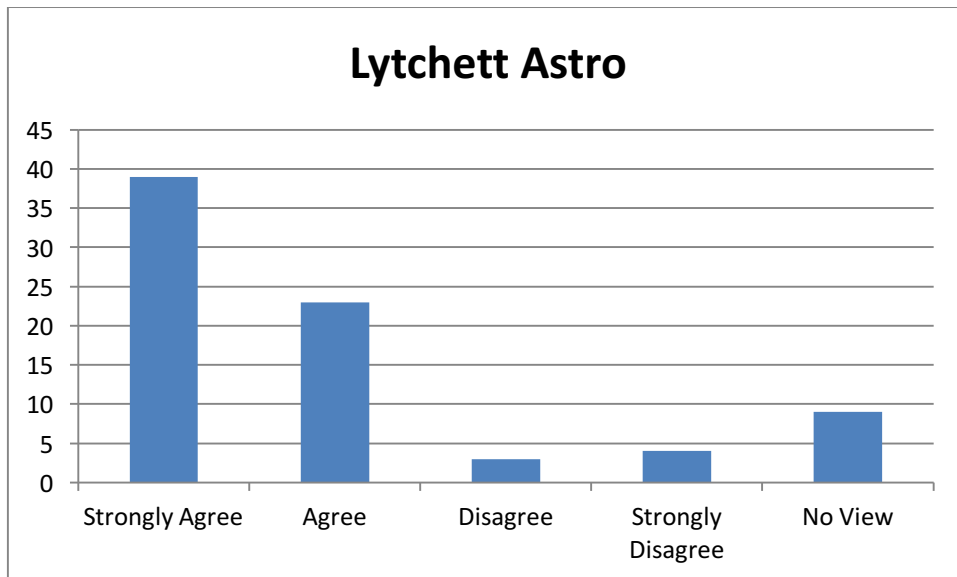
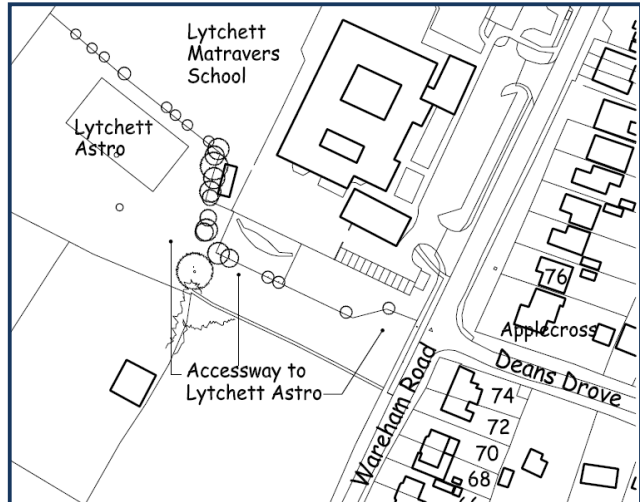
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D. Lytchett Astro Car Parking

The Lytchett Astro has a pedestrian pathway from Wareham Road up to the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) itself. This access is used as access for maintenance equipment.

There is a possible parking area next to the school in the entrance way to the Lytchett Astro, opposite Deans Drive, as shown on the map.

This could be used for parking away from the main road as a safer place to both drop-off and pick-up. The Neighbourhood Plan team consider that this option should be explored.

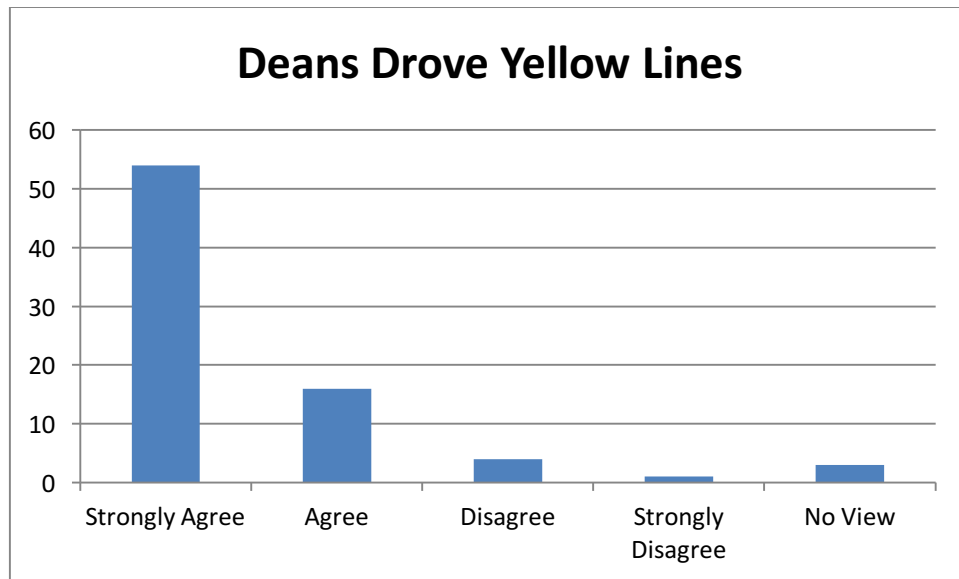


The response rate was highly in favour of exploring this option.

This will be included by the LMNPG in the scope of the full Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Plan.

E. Deans Drove Yellow Lines

Often cars are parked right on the corner of Deans Drove and Wareham Road. Yellow lines have been proposed in the immediately vicinity of the corner of Deans Drove.



The response rate was highly in favour of exploring this option. LMPC would prefer not to have painted lines if possible and will liaise with Dorset County Council on alternatives before looking at that option.

This will be included by the LMNPG in the scope of the full Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Plan.