

Local Highways Improvement - Melbourn Primary School - July 2025
Survey to approx 150 homes in area

The Melbourn Parish Council Local Highways Improvement application for 2025 focuses on improving safety around the Primary School, addressing risks associated with high traffic and pedestrian activity.

The scheme

Based on discussions with Highways, proposed measures include:

Reinstating the raised crossing on Orchard Road with the addition of a chicane to increase pavement safety.
 Replacing bollards or adding fencing at the Orchard Road/Mortlock Street crossroads.

A feasibility study has been carried out by Highways, they have ratified the idea behind the scheme and have suggested it will drive the results we desire. Melbourn Parish Council is committed to collaborating with Highways to identify and implement the most effective solutions. Evidence from an existing pinch point on Mortlock Street demonstrates its success in controlling traffic and improving safety. However, as the village grows, the busiest pedestrian entrance to the school on Orchard Road faces significant challenges. The narrow pathway often becomes congested, forcing pedestrians into the roadway. Efforts by the PTFA to explore alternative solutions, such as lollipop attendants, zebra crossings, and volunteer helpers, have not been successful, underscoring the need for robust action through this application. This proposal aims to ensure safer access for children and parents while addressing the long-term needs of the growing community.

The application will be presented to the Local Highway Improvement panel on Friday 11 July 2025.

We hope you will support the application, which you can indicate below, but please do raise any concerns using the freeform text box below.
 If you wish to discuss this project please contact parishclerk@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please rate your level of support for increasing safety around Melbourn Primary School (0 = Do not support, 10 = Fully support)				
	Survey / Email	Location	Comments	Response
5	Survey	No location	Proposal will be pointless without adding parking restrictions like in mortlock street. Either double yellow, single yellow timed around pick up drop off of kids at school or resident (to the street) only parking.	
5	Survey	No location	They need to also implement parking restrictions to improve visibility down the street and prevent congestion. Otherwise the safety of the children will remain compromised.	

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10	Survey	Orchard Rd	<p>We completely support improving the safety around the school . We would however like this to be done in a way that does not involve raised crossings .</p> <p>We had a huge flood about 20 years ago which was devastating, damaging the entire ground floor and losing many possession due to water damage. This flood occurred due to blocked drains and the raised crossing. We have put some measures in place to help solve our flooding problem. However with a big downpour we could still get flooded and other properties are at risk in Little Lane as the water floods down there like a river .</p> <p>Please do consider other traffic calming methods that would let the water flow down Orchard Road rather stopping it and pushing it back in our direction.</p> <p>Thank you</p>	<p><i>Response addressed to inform home owner that no new raised roadworks are to be installed.</i></p>
0	Survey	No location	<p>Why have you weighted the question (Do you support increasing safety?) whilst not asking if we support the detail in the proposal? The residents of Orchard Road are already feeling the negative effects of increased housing developments, with Orchard Road being used as a rat run to avoid the village centre, particularly in rush hour. The proposal could make the rush hour congestion point even worse. And if the parish is looking to improve school safety, why is the still no crossing at the crossroads of The Moor/Norgetts Lane/High Street, where I see speeding and near misses with school children most days?</p>	
0	Survey	No location	<p>The question above is the incorrect question. We are all for improving safety but without detailed plans showing the proposal we can't rate how effective it could be.</p> <p>I'm shocked that we only heard of these plans now, it seems very late in the process to be informing residents.</p> <p>I would be concerned of the placement of the chicane, if it affects access to my drive that would devalue my house then clearly I would expect compensation. By access I mean being able to reverse in from either direction when there are cars parked on the opposite side of the street.</p> <p>If the problem is the pavements not being wide enough then a chicane does not help.</p> <p>Further more I would like to know how many accidents there have been to understand the advantages of the scheme. To my knowledge there has been no accidents.</p> <p>Finally I would note that I have observed instances that I would consider dangerous at Orchard Rd, these have always been due to illegal or inconsiderate parking by parents at drop off or pick up times. How would having different rules be enforced to change parent behaviours.</p> <p>To me it is clear that the safest solution would be to close the Orchard Rd entrance and make the car park entrance the main way in.</p> <p>Please publish the plans ASAP.</p>	<p><i>Meeting held with residents and Chair to allay fears that the plans had been accepted. Communicating with residents about the process going forward.</i></p>
10	Survey	No location	<p>My child attends the primary school and I push a buggy there. It is very difficult to push along the paths due to there bag condition and steep angles on orchard road. There are no crossings and vehicles are often stressing trying to find somewhere to park so are to paying attention.</p>	

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One of the main problems of the area around the school is caused by parents parking both legally but inconsiderately and illegally close to the school at drop off and pick up times on Orchard Road, Mortlock Street near to the school entrances as well as up New Road which is an extension of Mortlock Street. Having cars park either legally or illegally in a short area between any pinch point traffic and junction makes a complete blockage likely. This happens almost every day currently at morning and afternoon school times on Mortlock street/New Road.

Cars fully line New Road on the school side which is narrow, forcing vehicles onto the wrong side of the road for a 50-100m without any areas controlled by double yellow lines or other advisory white lines for driveways or for areas of cars to pass making it extremely dangerous for road users and people who live on the road trying to access their driveways as well as for parents trying to get children out of their cars or along paths. The hedges are not cut back either by council/ residents making the paths narrower and the paths and road surfaces are in a terrible condition making it dangerous even for passing pedestrians.

The introduction of a pinch point on Orchard Road would only work if cars were not allowed to park along the side of the road from the crossroads of Orchard Road and Mortlock Street and beyond. Judging by my daily experience for the past 18 years, parents will find not parking close an issue. Currently parents park on one side of the road up to the the school entrance and then again all along the other side of the road further up with only the narrowest of gaps for one vehicle to pass on a blind corner causing extremely difficult conditions for drivers to negotiate at the time when there are many parents and children on the pathways.

The paths on Orchard Road are very narrow, in an extremely poor condition and lean on an angle into the road which means small children on scooters to find it difficult to negotiate safely and further up the care home staff have to wheel their residents in wheelchairs on the road itself because they cannot negotiate the path.

A much more comprehensive and sensible plan including parking restrictions, upgrades of path and road surfaces and enforcement of parking restrictions would be necessary to make the system work. The temporary school notices 'please don't park here' seem to work better at encouraging the parents to park further from the school entrances, but their inconsiderate parking habits are an issue too.

It's a difficult problem to solve and must be thought through carefully as blocking the carriage way with pinch points actually causes a lot of the problems further along the road/pathways for both car users and pedestrians (who have both walked or arrived by car and walked the final few yards). Upgrades to path areas are key too for corralling pedestrians in a safe way. I am a resident with a driveway that is often difficult and dangerous to access or exit due to inconsiderate parking and would prefer to have some advisory road markings opposite my drive so I can access my home more safely on a daily basis. Having sections with no parking allowed would mean passing traffic has the chance to dip in and out allowing smooth movement of cars away from the crossroads or proposed pinch point removing them from the area allowing pedestrians to cross the roads more safely. Every day I think carefully about how dangerous this area is for all users - not just pedestrians. I have 18 years of experience of negotiating traffic/pedestrians and being a road user myself passing the roads around the at school run time so would be happy to discuss future plans and their consequences to benefit all concerned.

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Survey No location

0

Survey No location

will make traffic worse with school runs and people parking else where.like in front my drive.

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0	Survey	No location	<p>It would be a waste of money reinstating the raised crossing on orchard road. The corner is to tight when coming into the village and turning right onto orchard road hence why the original bollards we hit and cease it exist. Cars pull out too far and are much bigger now a days that there is not enough clearance.</p> <p>The whole area around Mortlock street, up new road to the Garden Walk and along Orchard Road should be addressed with double yellow lines. There is parking available and access to the school from the main car park. Parents should utilise flexible working hours to be able to walk there children to school to reduce conjection around the area and improve safety. There have been multiple occasions I have been blocked in beeton close, had children running between parked cars along orchard road and new road and drivers who nealry cause accidents trying to pull away quickly. The village is not designed to cope with the sheer volume of traffic around the school run time and people entering / leaving the village for work.</p>
-	Email	Mortlock Close	<p>We are supportive of your proposals to try to protect the children and their parents attending the school. We wish to draw your attention to the number of parents using the corner of Mortlock Street and Mortlock Close to park their vehicles whilst dropping their children off to school. This action makes turning into the close very dangerous at times and very difficult for refuse vehicles. It is also the access road to the Vet's car park (The situation is not helped by the fact that 2 residents at 1 house in Mortlock Street have 3 cars almost permanently using Mortlock Close to park their vehicles over 24 hours).In order to reduce the possibility of an accident we would ask that consideration be given to the corner in question being made a "no parking" area by the use of double yellow lines.</p>

Replied with confirmation that Council would consider concerns and advised about parking enforcement reporting tool.

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I received a copy of the letter for changes to Orchard Road by the school.
I live in Mortlock Close, off Mortlock Street so have no comment on Orchard Road, except I would always support anything that will make children and parents for the school more safe.
Having lived in Mortlock Close since xxxxxx I have seen a number of changes to the Primary School and Mortlock Street.
As residents with children attending the primary school ourselves we applied and achieved the single yellow lines around the corners of the Close to stop cars parking there during school arrival and departure times as this meant when cars were parked around the corners children came out from behind cars and could not be seen.
As residents we take extreme caution arriving and leaving the Close, however, the Close is used by parents to park in for school access and there has been businesses with car park access from the Close for many years – currently it is a vets (before it was a hairdressers). People with ill animals are already stressed and it is not a good combination for driving to the vets carpark while children are trying to cross the end of the Close to get to and from school. Over the last 30+ years we have seen the school expand so it has more pupils, change its classroom and entrance areas and I was part of the committee who got the 'safe walk to school' path put in from the main Melbourn car park opposite the Hub, but that only works partly now as it is often full so not everyone can park there, hence they park along New Road, Mortlock Street and in the Mortlock Close.
Also the school now closes early on a Friday which means the single yellow line restriction is wrongly timed for Fridays.
Mortlock Street has long been a parking problem with the traffic lights and pinch point outside the school and the fact that traffic comes up New Road every time the M11 or A505 has a problem, which sadly is far too often. Not an ideal diversion route to take traffic past a school.
The barriers on the pinch point outside the school on Mortlock Close are damaged over and over again and traffic backs up to the lights and can block the whole junction with traffic caught in the middle of the lights as they cannot get past parked cars which means the pinch point does not work properly, due to the number of cars parked between the lights and the pinch point. The school has had to make their own signs to ask parents not to park right outside the school, which shows the problem they have.
If the single yellow lines were changed to double yellows that would deter more people from parking (I agree not stop everyone but many drivers are uncomfortable about leaving their car on double yellows so it would help) the space that would provide would then make a 'hop' for cars to get to the lights having come through the pinch point outside the school and make those corners clear for people to cross the road and then traffic coming in and out of the Close will be able to see them.

Responded to resident to let them know thoughts would be shared with Council for consideration and pointed them to the parking enforcement reporting tool.

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The Highway Code advises not parking within a few meters of a junction and the highway is not a place to park. None of these things are illegal they are just common sense which sadly often does not happen around schools. So please consider double yellow lines around the corners of Mortlock Close as one step towards traffic management in Mortlock Street and a huge step towards the safety of all the residents crossing the end of the Close. Also may I end by saying this is not a selfish request as none of the Close residents park on the highway or on the road in the Close – all our cars are on our own drives – the cars parked in our Close are owned by residents of Mortlock Street who have no drives, but turn the Close into a single lane road with their parked cars and it must effect the business of the vets, whereas having a vet in the village is a great thing for the community.

Email Mortlock Close

Thank you for the notification regarding the proposed safety improvements works, these proposals will greatly improve safety and it's good that they appear to have been initially well received. I am contacting you as it may be an appropriate time to request consideration for additional safety measures on the corner of Mortlock Street/Mortlock Close and within the cul-de-sac of Mortlock Close itself. The current road markings allow for a vehicle to park on the corner of Mortlock Close/Mortlock Street. This corner is used by parents every morning and afternoon to drop off their children to the school but it is an extremely dangerous place to park, particularly at times of the day when traffic near the school is very heavy, it also prevents clear visibility for drivers and pedestrians, some of whom have to step around the parked vehicles into the main road in order to cross the road, vehicles cannot see clearly and unsafe risks are taken by pedestrians and car drivers alike. The current road markings/access is a terrible accident waiting to happen. In addition to the above, the cul-de-sac itself has a small section of road where there is space for a single car to park. This section has a parking restriction notice forbidding parking during school drop off and pick up times (turning and road access is quite restrictive making parking dangerous as this road is used to access the Veterinary Surgery car park), however the existing notice is routinely ignored by parents who park during the restricted times every day (during term time), creating dangerous turning and access problems with multiple cars trying to use the one space. Melbourn is well served by suitable safe parking options, it seems unnecessary for these dangerous risks to be taken, particularly when the safety of very young children is at risk. We would be grateful if consideration could be given to this feedback.

Email Mortlock Close

Response sent to ensure Council consideration and advised about parking enforcement reporting tool.

Local Highways Improvement - Melbourn Primary School - July 2025
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There are a number of concerns I have about the proposed workings which I must address. When we purchased the property, the primary school opposite was closed off with a brick wall. We had no appeals when the new car park was inputted as we hoped it would improve the parking situation. However, it must be noted that the carpark remains an eyesore- we have had to hire landscape gardeners to upkeep a laurel bush in our front garden to block this view. I worry that this eyesore could decrease the value of our home and we already have an additional expense via landscape gardeners.

More recently, the village population has drastically increased, meaning extra traffic into the primary school. Put simply, there is not adequate infrastructure to keep up with this demand. We have noticed a huge increase in cars being parked outside the staff car park as there are not enough spaces available. This is in addition to the parents who also park outside the car park on Orchard Road.

This is already a challenge for our family- I work xxxxx and oftentimes the increased traffic means I am unable to exit my driveway and therefore makes me late. Another concern is the fact that our driveway is on a slope. Should there be a car parked opposite our driveway, it is very difficult to manoeuvre out safely without collision. Visability and accessibility is already limited. The challenges increase during icy conditions. This has been an ongoing concern which I originally wanted to raise as I am concerned that should I have a collision, my car insurance will raise in expense which is completely unfair considering when I bought the property, this was not as big an issue.

Additionally, my husband is disabled. We need an accessible driveway. Will this change reduce access to our driveway even more so? If so, this is entirely unfair on us as previously stated, we have been the homeowners xxx for a number of years. Our neighbour at xxxxx receives live- in care, will this affect her?

The road is already congested during pick up and drop off times. I feel this will only make this issue worse. We have a dentist and health centre on Orchard Road and I feel this will certainly affect their business.

I completely agree with the principal of keeping children safe, however this is a poorly thought out concept. If anything, I feel the added congestion will only add to the risk of those in and out the school.

Thank you for your understanding in the matter.

Confirmed Council would consider concerns. Sent copy of the full LHO application and advised about parking enforcement reporting tool.

Email Orchard Rd