

Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and the Climate Emergency

Date: 18 March 2021

Agenda item: N/A

Wards: Merton Park

Subject: Dorset Road – Zebra Crossing

Lead officer: Chris Lee, Director of Environment & Regeneration

Lead member: Councillor Martin Whelton, Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and the Climate Emergency

Forward Plan reference number: N/A

Contact Officer: Paul Miles

Email: Paul.Miles@merton.gov.uk

Recommendations:

That the Cabinet Member considers the issues detailed in this report and

- A) Notes the result of the statutory consultation that was carried out between 11th of February and 5th March 2021 on the proposed Zebra Crossing on a speed table (and some associated measures) on Dorset Road outside Park Academy. A copy of the consultation newsletter and plan is attached in Appendix 1.
- B) Considers the representations received in response to the statutory consultation, which are detailed in Appendix 2.
- C) Agrees to proceed with the making of the relevant Traffic Management Orders (TMOs) and the implementation of a proposed measures as shown in Appendix 1.
- D) Agrees to exercise his discretion not to hold a public inquiry on the consultation process.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the result of the statutory consultation carried out on the proposed zebra crossing on a speed table and seeks Cabinet Member approval to proceed with the making of the relevant Traffic Management Orders (TMOs) and the implementation of the proposed measures attached in Appendix 1.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Dorset Road is a two-way single carriageway subject to a 20mph speed limit. It is a local distributor road and is subject to traffic calming by means of speed cushions.
- 2.2 Following a long campaign lead by a local resident / parent of pupil attending the school supported by the school and other parents to improve the crossing outside the school the Council has previously considered a number options. In February 2020 a statutory consultation was carried out for an uncontrolled raised crossing; however, representations were received demanding a set of pedestrian islands or a formalised crossing.
- 2.3 Although the PV2 criteria for a zebra crossing is not met, a decision was taken to consider and consult on a zebra crossing.

3.0 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 To improve the perception of safety, reduce risk to vulnerable road users and provide a formalised crossing, it is proposed to introduce a zebra pedestrian crossing on a speed table on Dorset Road outside Park Academy school.

- 3.2 To ensure the safety of the proposed crossing, certain alterations to the road layout within the vicinity would be required. These include the removal of the existing speed cushions; removal of some parking bays; double yellow line restrictions and narrowing sections of the carriageway. This will ensure that suitable visibility is provided for pedestrians and approaching motorists.
- 3.3 Given its close proximity to the Morden Rd junction, the design also proposed junction narrowing. However, the carriageway at the junction falls under TfL's jurisdiction and would require undergoing a number of lengthy processes in obtaining TfL approval – a process that Merton has started. However, the ducting for the speed camera that is located on Morden Road runs along the junction and it therefore would require additional approval, infrastructure works and funding. Although the junction narrowing is not essential to the implementation of the zebra crossing, it is considered that it would be of great benefit. Officer's, therefore, intend to continue to pursue the idea of the junction narrowing.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The statutory consultation was carried out between 11th February and 5th March 2021. The consultation included the erection of street Notices on lamp columns within the vicinity of the proposals and the publication of the Council's intentions in the Wimbledon and Wandsworth Times and the London Gazette. Consultation documents were available at Merton Civic Centre and on the Council's website. A newsletter with a plan, attached as Appendix 1, was also posted to all those properties included within the consultation area.
- 4.2 Three representations were received which are detailed in Appendix 2. Two representations were in support of the scheme and one with a number of observations and some concerns. One of the representations also detailed the on line petition <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/improve-road-safety-at-park-community-school> Although the petition is acknowledged, a statutory consultation requires individual representations and it is based on contents such as the basis for any objection rather than quantity of representations / petitions.
- 4.3 All Ward Councillors were informed of the proposals and the statutory consultation.
- 4.4 All Emergency Services have been consulted and no objections have been raised.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member considers the representations received along with officer's comments and approves the making of the Traffic Management Order and the implementation of the proposed measures. If agreed the works will be carried out during Easter 2021 school holidays.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 Do nothing. This would not address the concerns raised regarding road safety risk.

7. FINANCIAL RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The cost of implementing this scheme is estimated at £42k. This includes the cost of the statutory consultation and making of the relevant Traffic Management Orders (T.M.O's).
- 7.2 The cost of this scheme would be funded from TfL Capital allocation for 2021/20. This funding is yet to be confirmed.

8. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Introduction of waiting restrictions would be made under Section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended). The Council is required by the Local Authorities Traffic Order (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 to give notice of its intention to make a Traffic Order (by publishing a draft traffic order). These regulations also require the Council to consider any representations received as a result of publishing the draft order.
- 8.2 Humps are installed under section 90A-F of the Highways Act 1980. (The regulations which specify the detailed requirements for speed tables are - The Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999.)

- 8.3 Pedestrian crossings are installed under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. (The regulations which specify the detailed requirements for pedestrian crossings are - The Zebra, Pelican and Puffin Pedestrian Crossing Regulations and General Directions 1997).
- 8.4 The Council has discretion as to whether or not to hold a public inquiry before deciding whether or not to make a Traffic Management Order or to modify the published draft Order. A public inquiry should be held where it would provide further information, which would assist the Cabinet Member in reaching a decision.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHENSION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The implementation of the proposals would mean a safer crossing for vulnerable road users particularly the young, the elderly and those with disability.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATION

- 10.1 N/A

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Before reaching a decision to make the necessary Traffic Management Order to implement any scheme, the Council must follow the statutory consultation procedures pursuant to the Road Traffic Regulation Act ("RTRA")1984 and the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations1996. All objections received must be properly considered in the light of administrative law principles, Human Rights law and the relevant statutory powers.
- 11.2 The Council's powers to make Traffic Management Orders arise mainly under sections 6, 9, 45, 46, 122 and 124 and schedules 1 and 9 of the RTRA 1984.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report.
- Appendix 1 – Newsletter
- Appendix 2 – Representations

DORSET ROAD ZEBRA CROSSING – MERTON PARK

Statutory consultation - 11th February 2021

Dear Resident,

To facilitate a safe crossing, the Council is proposing a zebra crossing on a speed table outside Dorset Road.

The raised zebra crossing will reduce the speed of approaching traffic and provide a quicker crossing point for pedestrians. Reducing the carriageway width will also improve pedestrian safety by minimizing the crossing distance and improve visibility.

The work will consist of the following measures and as shown on the plan overleaf.

- Installation of raised zebra crossing outside Park Academy
- The removal of the existing speed cushions outside no. 153 Dorset Road.
- The removal of 12.5m of permit holder parking bays outside the school to facilitate the zebra crossing.
- The introduction of double yellow lines at the junction of Daybrook Road and at the junction with Dorset Road outside Park Academy.
- Kerb buildout between No 151 Dorset Rd and Daybrook Rd. This will not affect crosswalks.

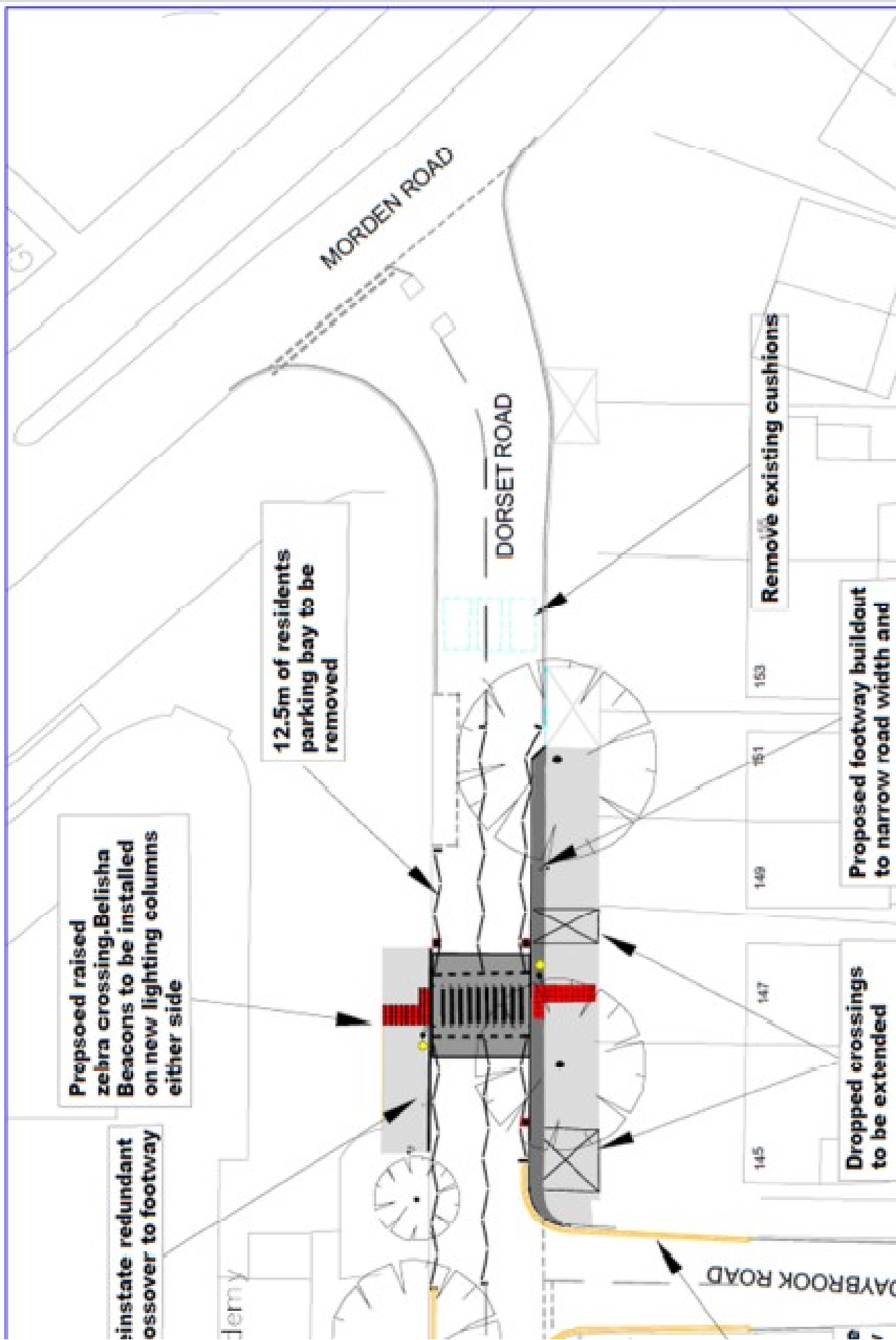
All of the proposed measures (except the buildout) require a statutory consultation.

What happens next

A Notice of the Council's proposals for the zebra crossing and the associated measures will be published in the newspaper Wimbledon and Wandsworth Times and the London Gazette; Notices will also be posted in columns in the vicinity. Representations for and against the proposals described in this Notice should be sent in writing – either email Traffic.AndHighways@merton.gov.uk or write to the E&R Department, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX by no later than 5th March 2021. Reference Dorset Rd ZEBRA.

Objections must relate only to the elements of the scheme that are subject to this statutory consultation.

All representations along with Officers' comments and recommendations will be presented to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and the Climate Emergency. Please note that all representations received will not be made until the Cabinet Member makes a final decision. Your representations are required to give weight to the nature and content of your representation and not necessarily the reasons are, therefore, important to us. This information is also available on Merton Council's website www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/traffic-management/pedestrian-crossings



Representation 1

FAO Martin Whelton,

This email is to express strong support for the February 2021 proposals to improve road safety outside Park Academy by installing a zebra crossing on a speed table (in addition to other valuable measures).

As you may remember, in response to the council's proposals in February 2020 I started a petition that requested that the proposals at that time were not approved until they were significantly improved. The February 2021 is an overwhelming improvement on the previous scheme. Many thanks for this.

I am re-submitting the petition link and comments received so that they can be included in the response to this consultation since they are directly relevant. The petition signatures and comments can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/improve-road-safety-at-park-community-school>

There were 329 signatures and 139 individual comments received (one was a duplicate) on the petition. For clarity please see the attached file where I have grouped the comments into different themes to make them easier to analyse.

The 4 themes and number of comments received on each one are as follows:

1. Comments related to near misses from school community, which demonstrate the need for the February 2021 scheme (7)
2. Comments describing the everyday experiences of crossing Dorset Road by the school community, which highlight why the February 2021 scheme is needed to overcome these difficulties (31)
3. Comments requesting an improvement to the February 2020 proposals, which has been achieved by the February 2021 proposals (several specifically requesting a zebra crossing which is now proposed) (69)
4. Comments from local community about the conditions on Dorset Road / wider need beyond the school for the safe crossing point that is offered by the February 2021 proposals (32)

I hope you will find the above compelling evidence that the school and local community is strongly supportive of the February 2021 proposals to improve road safety outside Park Academy.

Representation 2

To whom it may concern,

Please find within this email notes of enquiry and possible objections to the proposed Dorset Road Crossing, and objects pertaining to it -

My mother has lived directly opposite the school for 4 decades, give or take, and in that time I sincerely cannot recall there ever being an accident or traffic related incident outside the house. However, I am aware the building hasn't always been a school, and pedestrian and children safety is paramount, so I'm not against a crossing.

It's the finer details that I take umbrage with ;-

The narrowing of the road - I'm not sure I entirely understand how this will "improve visibility" and aid safety. Surely this would just create more traffic congestion - especially with drivers less confident with their vehicle's width - and in turn beget recklessness. Although if this is coupled with the removal of the parking bays, admittedly, that would work. Dare I say it, just the removal of the bays could be enough. No more having to peek out between parked vehicles is a welcome change.

But if there is to be a crossing, pedestrians shouldn't be crossing elsewhere on the road anyway.

The Belisha beacons - I know this is what makes a zebra crossing a zebra crossing but I'm deeply troubled by this. At least with the lack of clarity surrounding them. Regardless of how close we are to the main road, Dorset Road is still residential: and now we're getting lights, and crossings, and bollards and whatever else. I've always wanted grand pillars at the junction of Dorset Road and the main road (like at the junction of Lake Road and Woodside in Wimbledon Hill) to signify people are entering a residential area. But if we have to concede and get a crossing instead, I suppose we'll have to take that loss! ... but one with big flashing lights?

- Will these Belisha beacons be installed with courtesy shields - so it's visible from the road but protects houses from the light in the big orange ball?
- Will these only be active during school rush hour/start/end times? The idea of them will be a lot more palatable if this were the case.

If the beacons will be active 24 hours I find this to be completely absurd.

I hope you do not misconstrue my tone as aggression. Please don't. It's merely sincere concern. Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I look forward to any reply, and the developments around this proposal.

Representation 3

The staff at Park Academy and STEP Academy Trust whole-heartedly support the proposal of a zebra crossing on Dorset Road. Families need to be able to cross this busy road safely.

Petition comments - Improve Road Safety at Park Community School

These comments were all contributed by people signing a petition in February 2020 and should be regarded as individual consultation. All comments are written in the context of the petition text – that the road safety scheme proposed is adequate to improve road safety for the children who attend Park Community school (now Park Academy).

All comments follow the request on the petition that the February 2020 proposals are not approved until they are: **new scheme proposed in February 2021 represents an overwhelming improvement and therefore the comments supportive of the new scheme.**

There are 139 comments in total (one was a repeat) and they can also be viewed on the downloaded excel file or on <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/improve-road-safety-at-park-community-school>

The number of comments under each theme is in ()

Comment

Near miss 9.1.20: In winter visibility is often poor when we are collecting from school, today it only that there was an enormous puddle to navigate. After we had already stepped out to cross appeared from the junction with London Road and drove at us at speed.

I loathe dropping and collecting my children from school and having to cross that road. IT IS D/ Merton Council's inaction is inexcusable.

A zebra crossing at the very least would help with safety for our children when crossing over Dorset Road. The few speed bumps are not adequate with slowing down to been several near misses with children/parents and passers

by over the years. It is simply unacceptable to not have sufficient and adequate safety measure

I have to risk taking and collecting my children to and from school every day. My children and I incident last year, which could have been catastrophic. I have also personally witnessed near miss the road. These are hazardous conditions for young children and other pedestrians to navigate, stressful it is being a road user having to drive near a school where there is no dedicated crossing. This situation is dangerous and should be adequately addressed before it's too late.

My child goes to this school and as a parent and a member of the public I witnessed a man on a bike get knocked down and injure a serious head injury where I had to administer first aid while we ambulance to arrive. This was just 20 minutes before our children were due to leave school!! Luckily he was OK and taken care of but if this had been a child I fear it would of been a different story, thank you and Merton Council need to do something about it and do it now!!

Crossing the road is an every day challenge. Just the other day I was almost ran over by a car. I was behind parking cars and didn't see a car coming fast when I started crossing. I was lucky there was no car from the other direction as I had to run to cross the road not to be run over.

Just as an example of dangerous situations on Dorset Rd. We were on our bikes riding to school. A driver took the bend at Erridge road junction very fast just as Isaac (8yrs old) had started crossing to stop him and he only just managed to. I chased the driver who got stuck behind traffic building up to the A24 and indicated for the guy to open his window, I explained that this was a 20mph zone where we are crossing regularly to go to school and that he was driving too fast and could have knocked me over. The guy looked like he didn't even know that he'd done something. He mumbled sorry.

Basically there was nothing stopping him from going fast and he was in a hurry, there are always people who go fast along that road

2. Comments describing the every day experiences of crossing Dorset Road by the school community, February 2021 scheme is needed to overcome these difficulties (31)

Comment
We have to almost run across the road as cars are constantly passing the school and it's not safe carrying a small child and running with another but it's also dangerous!
I have to walk my son and my daughter that is 1 years old and i dont feel safe at all crossing the road.
I walk my son to Park Community School every day from Sandbourne Avenue. It is probably a short journey but there isn't a day goes by that we don't see somebody either exceeding the 20 mph limit driving recklessly. Regularly Dorset Road can be backed up with traffic from the A24 almost to Sandbourne Avenue. This means we have to cross one lane of free flowing (and often speeding) traffic then pick our way through the lane of bumper to bumper vehicles. Add to that parked cars and commercial vehicles it all makes the crossing a challenging one for a grown adult never mind a child. It just seems both obvious and necessary to put in a formal crossing as has happened at other primary schools in the area. Please act now before something serious and avoidable happens.
Very concerned about this road. The cars are non stop speeding up this road not looking w/ care at all. Defineltly a danger to the children and members of the Public
My child attends this school, it is a really busy road and a hazard to cross.
Crossing the road is a nightmare in the mornings. We have to wait to be let across whiles the bus doesn't cut through the end of the bus lane to turn down into Dorset road. The cars that are on Dorset road also cannot see children and parents who are crossing the road until it's too late. It is dangerous. Some mornings we have waited up to 10 min to cross the a24 because a car may be coming down the road so it is unsafe for us thanks cross. We are also trying to set up a crossing for your children to only cross the road when it is safe to do so, but it is very difficult at this in time.
We really need road safety measurement in place urgently! We drop our child at Park community school and crossing the road is very dangerous and hazardous. The drivers don't care and zoom past v

we have to walk between the cars in order to see what's coming the other way. It's very u
matter of time before there is a serious injury or worse.

Please make Dorset road a safe place for our children to cross the road to attend park con
very busy road and very unsafe for our children to
get to school safely.

Our kids deserve to be safe when going in and out of the school and park community schc
very dangerous location. We need more parking for parents to drop and pick up and more

Although I do not live in Merton my child attends Park Community School. He is regularly
dangerous hazards of this road and many times I have had to pull him out of the way of ca
wrong side of the road in order to avoid the queue of traffic and turn right onto Daybrook
need to be taken to ensure this does not continue and Merton Council waiting until some
dead to do that is unacceptable. The current proposal will not stop cars from performing t
illegal manoeuvre, not will it slow the speeding traffic from the A24 any more than it wou
visibility on the side full of traffic.

I don't not understand why my or any other child at Park Community School should not be
care and safety measures given to other schools in the borough.

My little brother attends this school and it's incredibly dangerous for him when crossing tl
not able yet to make a proper judgement call about the speed of cars or traffic, yes he ob
an adult but proper safety measures should be put in place for the children.

As a parent I find the road crossing at Park Community School extremely difficult.

As a disabled person with severe walking difficulties I often struggle or have fear of crossin
of a hazard I would not be able to respond fast or to protect my daughter or myself. The r
and having to look for a traffic in both directions makes the crossing really challenging and

As a parent who also has an 8 month old, trying to cross the road holding a baby and the old, whilst trying to look in both directions for cars (some of which are speeding), having to make this not only easier, but much much safer for ALL children and their parents

Every day I struggle to cross the road, especially in the mornings when traffic is really bad

Please give our children a safe place to cross this road to get to and from school.

It is currently so unsafe.

If we try to cross the road further down near Sandbourne Ave and Erridge roads, we have flying around the sharp corner on Dorset Road.

If we cross further up towards the school we are faced with traffic crawling up towards the from the A24 in opposite directions.

There is currently ONE flashing light which is hidden by trees! Most of time its not working. This is not much to ask to keep our children and other members of the general public safe

My nephews go this school, it's an absolute nightmare crossing the road and it's dangerous for them up I'm always fearful of crossing the road safely.

I regularly collect my grandchildren from Park community school and the traffic on Dorset Road terrifies me. The vehicles continually exceed the speed limit.

A pedestrian crossing is absolutely essential as the road in its current state is an accident waiting to happen

The unsafe conditions on the roads around Park Community School, especially directly opposite the entrances, are awfully unsafe and have been from the day this school opened its doors. It has been years now that the school and community have asked for better solutions and safer crossings. Several campaigns undertaken by the school to raise awareness with and secure adequate funding from the Council. Something needs to be done before another accident takes place which could be fatal.

Every day I feel extremely nervous crossing the road to Park Community School. I have an anxiety disorder and am not as aware when crossing the road and every day there is traffic at both drop off and pick up times.

Every morning when I need to cross Dorset Rd with three kids and only two hands – it is so stressful and it is just about to happen soon! I can't understand why our kids are not important to the council. A zebra crossing and there is no reason for not having it!

I go sometimes to pick my grandson from Park I School. Dorset road is always very busy and dangerous to cross! The only way to get true is by stepping on the road, no drivers are giving way to the pedestrian otherwise! A zebra crossing is a must, before something really bad happens to our children. This road presents a dangerous situation for ourselves as parents and our children which needs to be addressed with a better plan than the one currently presented by the Council.

The road in front of our school is very busy and dangerous. There is no safe area for the children to cross to school.

I have to drive my son to school everyday as I live over 3 miles away and this was the only option offered by Merton Council. Like the schools listed in the petition, my nearest school, Holly Hill, is on a relatively quiet road opposite a park and has had new traffic calming measures installed recently. The Community which is on a much busier and major cut through has NOTHING. Dorset road is especially dangerous at the A24 end. Not only do cars exceed the 20 mile an hour speed limit, but regular drivers drive on the wrong side of the road. The cars over-take the stationary traffic either on Daybrook Road or on many occasions are so impatient that they drive past the queue and get on to the A24. At the top of Dorset Road the raised area does slow the traffic down and is a safety feature for those crossing from the Tram, where I would suggest the traffic is moving at a much slower speed coming off the Kingston Road and would have been less of a priority area in my view than

3. Comments requesting an improvement to the February 2020 proposals, which has been achieved by the (several specifically requesting a zebra crossing which is now proposed) (69)

Please put some sort of crossing outside this school as it's very dangerous here

Please please make this road safe for our children, cars speed while Entering and exiting Dorse
The road is far to wide to feel safe while crossing with children. Please do the right thing and m

I believe the current proposal is totally inadequate to provide a safe mode of crossing for the p
community school. I strongly believe that a better proposal should be offered ideally in the nat
zebra crossing. Should it take a casualty to prompt the right kind of crossing to be put in place?

It's unacceptable that there is no safe road crossing outside school for children to safely cross t
Ongoing safety issues and incidents outside the school make current proposals largely inadequ

Road safety required

Please provide improved road safety proposals by Park Community School in order for the gen
their suitability.

I can't understand why they can't put in a zebra crossing rather than a speed table?

Taking away those initially speed humps seems ludicrous.

I think that the general footfall has increased not only for the school, which will increase more
September but from the tramline usage and the councils hike in parking charges across Merton
Merton council's aim is to lower emissions and get more people using public transport so they
account as well.

The fact a pedestrian was struck by a car, ambulance and police were in attendance, on that ve
Road outside of the school recently is shocking but just goes to show why it's important to put

Please act before a child gets hurt or killed

Please take into account this petition. Children's safety is the most important issue for every council.

The Council should do better in safeguarding and protecting kids including pupils in the school in danger.

This Road is a Death or serious life changing injury waiting to happen, ridiculous that a junior school round and busy cut through has no zebra crossing, shame on you Merton Council for not doing Surely the safety of our children should be a priority on every council's list!

Please make the roads safe for the children.

I can't believe that there is no pedestrian crossing there!

It is very important to improve the safety for our children

This is pivotal for the safety of all the children in school. It is their fundamental right to go learn environment.

Our kids safety is the most important. We mustn't wait until a serious accident happens before them to cross.

If we can change our Roads to make cyclists safer there should be no question when comes to

This is not a suitable location for children to be crossing.

Avoiding basic safety measures regarding the children and families of Park Community School is are plenty of British roads where, as a motorist, you turn into a road off a roundabout and are in with a ridiculous zebra crossing that serves no purpose but to hold up traffic on the roundabout acceptable whereas a zebra crossing outside a primary school on a busy road does not meet the Merton Council you MUST prioritise this proposal with URGENCY or I expect you will be held accountable in an accident involving someone from the school community.

Please see sense and help look after the children of this borough before something awful happens.
It's really a shame that the council cannot facilitate a safe crossing for school children without a petition.
Children's safety is paramount at all times and especially when near busy traffic routes.
In a nutshell: Child's safety should prevail while taking such a decision, not any political mumbo jumbo.
Please make our kids safe and help parents to drop kids safely at school. I don't want to believe anything is going to do something when someone dies ?
I consider that a controlled pedestrian crossing is absolutely imperative, for the safety of children in the vicinity of the school. I am astonished that there have been no more serious accidents recently, especially those that exceed the speed limit along Dorset Road, as well as driving in a very inconsiderate and unsafe manner. This absolutely must be remedied at the earliest possible time.
I sign this petition because I believe that people's safety is paramount.
Please work with us to ensure road safety outside the school
Please. Do something before someone is killed
Need a safe crossing for our children
There seems to be a simple solution to very concerning situation. Hopefully the council provide it.
It's just basic common sense to prioritise children's safety over traffic speed in a residential area.
This seems like an obvious thing to do.

This is such a busy road it needs a crossing

It's needed for the ease and safety of the parents and children to get to school safely

The current proposal appears inadequate and children will remain vulnerable unless this is improved
We want the children to be able to cross Dorset Road safely.

Safety First!!!

Please install a better safer crossing

I'm supporting the road petition

To ensure the safety of the children at the school and other pedestrians, please install a safe crossing

Please put pedestrians safety first

If people want to own a car, they need to invest, where possible in a drive and keep the roads clear of
many cars on the road, driving too fast!

Safety for children and their parents / carers / families and teachers to get to and from school is paramount

I support this petition for a crossing

child road safety is paramount

This needs a full investigation and research.

Merton Council: the proposal does not address the problems we have repeatedly told you about years. It does not make the road safer for our children and vulnerable users for the reasons set out in the consultation. It is therefore a poor use of public money - and, if your proposal goes ahead, more money will need to be spent to make revisions to it. You say in the proposal and elsewhere that footfall is too low for a zebra crossing to be installed here for technical reasons. Neither of these points is correct as per our correspondence. You say that a central refuge cannot be installed here. Yet you have swiftly installed a zebra crossing on Dorset Road even though the technical issues are more problematic there (crossovers and trees). We find it perfectly possible to install a central refuge outside Park Community School - yet you have not proposed this. Further details are in my full response to the consultation.

It's not acceptable to have small children at risk. How difficult cannot be to put in a crossing.

We need to safeguard the children ensure that they are able to get to school safely with a zebra crossing.

A zebra crossing is needed as there is no safe place to cross the road

Zebra crossing now!!!!

Zebra crossing

It's shocking why there are no zebra crossings in front of each school. They should be compulsory. Another way of prioritising vehicle traffic and putting pedestrians' lives at risk. I don't understand how this can be justified.

Please keep our kids safe by adding a zebra crossing on Dorset Road. I usually have more than 10 cars passing by. It's a struggle to cross with them with the number of cars/vans passing by. It is not safe at all! Thank you.

Zebra crossing is highly recommended

4. Comments from local community about the conditions on Dorset Road / wider need beyond the school that is offered by the February 2021 proposals (32):

As a local resident I regularly drive past the school and cannot believe there is no added safety provisions for young children to cross the road
Proper crossing facilities benefit the wider community as well as the school. There are many children on the road to get to other local schools as well.
Cars pass by the school much too quickly. Children and adults are in danger. Something must be done.
Where my daughter goes to school we have a zebra crossing and a Lillie pop lady without her and it wouldn't be safe to cross the road all schools should have at least zebra crossing or lights. As people in the morning and evening rush have road rage and don't look or stop for children matter they are the future know run over on the way to school.
Children's safety should come first, cars race along this road, I have been overtaken while doing 20mph
The whole length of Dorset Road is a rat run with cars and vans regularly speeding/overtaking on the road. With so many children crossing, particularly at Merton Park tram stop, it is an accident waiting to happen!
This is an accident waiting to happen! It is a school, it was approved to be there and this should have been taken into account at the time. Now it must be put right.
the Council needs to take responsibility for the safety of the children in Park Community
All children regardless of whether they attend State Private Public or Free schools are entitled to arrive at school safely.
Always thought it was a silly place for a school, with all that traffic congestion on both roads. Young children are important.
Although I'm not local I frequently drive down Dorset Road to visit friends and family and therefore support this petition

<p>This school should be treated the same as all the other local schools identified by the parents. accidents that's occurred there. Pedestrians, school children and parents need to be able to cross. Otherwise the Council should not have given the go ahead for the school in the first place. The layout of this road appear to be perverse. Residents should remember this behaviour in the upcoming election. This council has been in power so long that I fear power has corrupted them. Time to vote them out.</p>
<p>Dorset Road is extremely busy especially during school times. There are cars rushing in from the north a risk factor for young children crossing. The cars from Daybrook road is also a disaster waiting to happen. Please be better to be cautious then turn a blind eye. The school and parents are requesting for risk to be assessed. Children to be safe. Please be responsible and don't let a tragedy change your mind.</p>
<p>I'm a regular driver on this road. The proposal in this petition would not cause any problems for me. It is important that children's safety is considered first.</p>
<p>We need to protect everyone trying to cross this difficult junction and the children who attend the school are particularly vulnerable. Wake up Merton Council.</p>
<p>I sympathise with the school as I try to cross Morden Road to reach the southbound bus stop on the school kids.</p>
<p>I support this petition. I walk past this corner often. The safety of young children must come first.</p>
<p>I agree with this petition and believe that it is the council's duty to provide safe access to a school for primary school children. Living near by I have witnessed dangerous situations around Park Road many times.</p>
<p>This is a terrible junction and needs to be made safer for pedestrians</p>
<p>I live in nearby parkleigh road. My son goes to Rutlsh. I think this is a good idea. I cross that road every day.</p>
<p>It should be the same. Dorset Rd should have traffic calming islands down it's entire length or a speed camera. It is also a death trap and should have speed bumps as a minimum, it's the only road in Merton Park with no traffic calming.</p>
<p>The issue of public safety and the concerns of the community must compel the council to act in the event of a serious accident or fatality, failure to do so would be viewed as unacceptable.</p>
<p>I completely support this – Dorset Road is hard to cross at that point, with speeding cars using the junction and other cars trying to push out into the traffic on Morden Road.</p>
<p>Please help the children and their families keep safe on such busy roads!</p>
<p>Good luck. A pedestrian crossing is vital here. A car running from Sheridan almost ran into a pedestrian crossing. With younger children at the school any further delay is unacceptable.</p>
<p>We often travel down Dorset Road and regularly see cars speeding by the school. On more than one occasion drivers in a hurry have made unsafe manoeuvres just by the school and the junction with the A10.</p>