

Summary report of survey conducted by Matlock Community Land Trust regarding the traffic situation on Cavendish Road and surrounding roads, Matlock. December 2025

Executive Summary

Of the 108 responses to Matlock Community Land Trust's survey, all live in Matlock, 71% drive, 36% use local bus services and 34% do both. More than half of the respondents have lived in the Cavendish Road area for more than twenty years. Seventy-five percent have seen a bus or similarly large vehicle unable to negotiate Cavendish Road. Ninety-four percent believe conditions are worse since the Derbyshire County Council (DCC) car park closure. Seventy-two percent are unhappy with the condition of the pavements along Cavendish Road. Twenty responders said they had witnessed a road traffic accident along Cavendish Road and over 98% said that reopening the car park would improve matters locally.

Introduction

Matlock Community Land Trust (MCLT) is a non-political, not for profit community benefit society. Its aim is to improve the lives of our local community and to protect assets that are central to that aim.

On Friday 21st April 2023, DCC closed the Cavendish Road car park by blocking the entrance. They announced that they were going to sell it as it was 'surplus to requirements.

In August 2023 Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC), following a submission from MCLT listed Cavendish Road car park as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). This was challenged by DCC, but this challenge was subsequently dismissed. The designation of an asset as an ACV affords certain protections and also is a recognition that the asset in question is an important benefit to the local community.

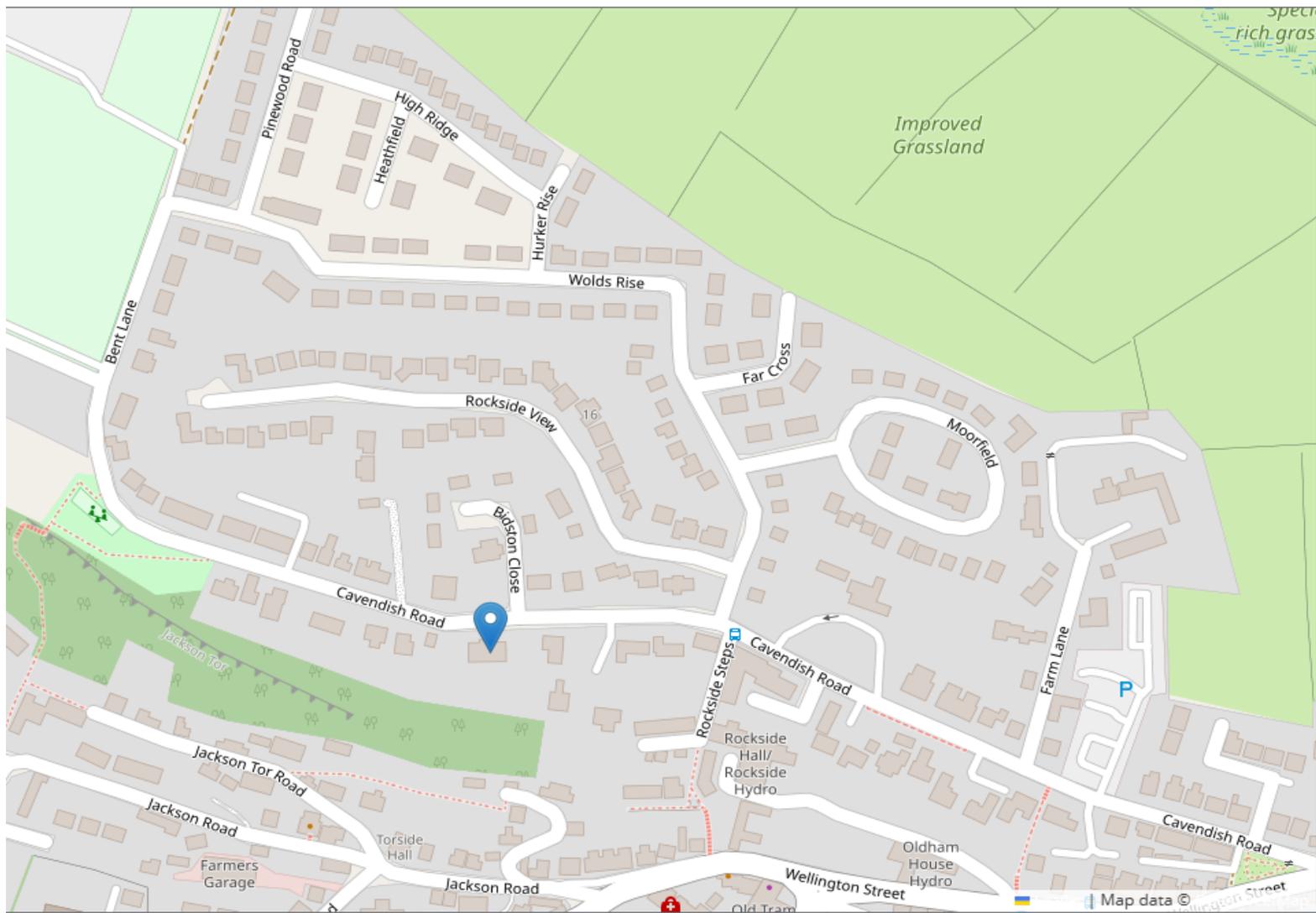
Cavendish Road is a cul-de-sac. It serves over four hundred properties on Cavendish Road, the Rockside View estate, Wolds Rise estate, and smaller roads off it such as Bidston Close, Farm Lane and George Road.

The roadway is less than four metres across at its narrowest point. Although Cavendish Road is narrow along all of its length, this pinch point is at the beginning of Cavendish Road from the junction with Wellington Street to the entrance to the car park.

A bus route should be at a minimum of six metres wide. There are various parking restrictions on Cavendish Road. Parking is restricted to the North side of the road, but there are also restrictions such as double yellow lines on this side of the road as well. Most of the residents of Cavendish Road have no garages and must park on the road. There are residents who have no space to park outside their homes.

Recently, a children's home and a taxi business have been established in the narrowest point on Cavendish Road, increasing the number of vehicles and traffic movements. A substantial number of residents park on nearby Wellington Street which is a cut through route from the town centre to Chesterfield Road. Because of its narrowness and the number of cars parked along the south side of the road along most of its length, Wellington Street, is made a single carriageway.

MCLT would like to thank all residents who gave up their time to complete this survey.



The Survey

Matlock Community Land Trust conducted the survey of local residents from September 2025 to the end of November 2025. The survey was advertised to members of MCLT through the monthly newsletter and to the public through MCLT's Facebook page. A link from the newsletter and from the Facebook page took respondents to the survey on the MCLT's website.

Participants were asked to answer the following questions:

1. Do you live in Matlock?
2. What is your last name?
3. What is your postcode?
4. How long have you lived at your present address?
5. Do you drive?
6. Do you use the bus service in Matlock?
7. Have you or someone you know experienced the bus being unable to get along Cavendish Road? (Respondents were also asked to briefly expand on their answer.)
8. Have you ever observed any other large vehicle, including emergency vehicles, unable to get along Cavendish Road? (Respondents were also asked to briefly expand on their answer.)
9. Since the Cavendish Road car park was closed in April 2023, how would you say that conditions on Cavendish Road, Wellington Street and other surrounding roads have changed? (Respondents were also asked to briefly expand on their answer.)
10. Do you use the pavements along Cavendish Road?
11. Do you consider the pavements on Cavendish Road adequate?
12. Can you briefly explain the circumstances of your previous answer?
13. In respect of accidents in this area have you or someone you know been involved in an accident?
14. Do you agree that reopening the car park (or part of it) would improve things for drivers and pedestrians on Cavendish Road and surrounding roads? (Respondents were also asked to briefly expand on their answer.)

One hundred and eight people responded. All of them live (a very small number lived until recently) in the Cavendish Road area of Matlock. Seventy-one of the respondents drive, 36% use local bus services, 34% both drive and use bus services.

MCLT members have spoken about their difficulties in navigating Cavendish Road, but there has, until now, been no comprehensive or systematic enquiry into the problems on Cavendish Road. Past County Council administrations have ignored the problems on Cavendish Road. The perception of residents has been that the closure of the Cavendish Road car park has added unnecessarily to these problems. A perception that has been borne out by our survey.

It is important to note that along the first hundred metres or so of Cavendish Road, cars are parked half on and half off the pavement. If they were not parked in this way, many vehicles using Cavendish Road would not be able to get through. This creates difficulties for pedestrians and particularly for wheelchair users, mobility scooters and those using pushchairs. The pavement is not of the required width to allow pedestrians to pass safely. The presence of cars parked on the pavement exacerbates the problem.



In this report we have concentrated on the written comments in response to our questions and these have been broken down into separate sections. There are also sections on the social impact of closing the car park and the sense of injustice that local residents feel. These responses were unsolicited, but we felt it important to include them as they reflect real impacts that are often overlooked when making decisions that adversely affect local communities. Apart from the executive summary, the introduction to the report and this section, the headings of the report are as follows:

- Survey Responses – Traffic problems and delays
- Survey Responses – The impact of the closure of Cavendish Road car park on drivers and pedestrians
 - Pavement parking
 - Pedestrian right of way
 - Parking in unsuitable and inappropriate places
 - The volume of parked cars
 - Reduced passing places
 - Accessing Cavendish Road from side streets
- Survey Responses – Pedestrian use of pavements on Cavendish Road
- Survey Responses - Accidents
- Survey Responses - Do you agree that reopening the car park (or part of it) would improve things for drivers and pedestrians on Cavendish Road and surrounding roads?
- The Social Impact of Closing the Car Park
- The Sense of Injustice
- Conclusions

Survey Responses – Traffic problems and delays

The survey responses provide a snapshot of the situation on Cavendish Road and the surrounding roads, but also gives a picture of how issues concerning the safety of pedestrians and drivers, problems relating to the ability of large vehicles to travel along the road and the difficulties created by the closure of Cavendish road car park have impacted on the lives of local residents.

Many respondents reported that they had seen emergency vehicles and large vehicles stuck in traffic creating logjams and hold-ups that could have had serious consequences, especially if emergency vehicles were prevented from getting through. Many respondents said that they had seen delivery lorries, HGVs, farm vehicles, and dustbin lorries unable to move because of parked cars restricting the carriageway. The bus service has on many occasions stopped at the beginning of Cavendish Road, instead of following its route to the end of the road, because of parked vehicles impeding the way. The ‘brilliance’ of the bus drivers was mentioned as a reason why there were less delays to the timetable.

There were many instances of drivers being impeded while travelling along Cavendish Road. No where to pull in was cited as a major problem. A problem created by parked vehicles. Sometimes delivery vehicles park opposite to parked cars so that the carriageway is even narrower, leading to more holdups.

Respondents alluded to the fact that they have developed strategies to allow them to traverse the road. These include being courteous to other road users. However, drivers who are ignorant of the specific issues, such as those who are not locals and only travel along the road to Cavendish Fields on days when football matches are played, are identified as creating problems for themselves and for local residents.

Although some residents consider the bus essential for their travel out from their homes, some respondents questioned the viability of the bus route because of the delays and the difficulties in traversing Cavendish Road.

The following comments are typical of those made by respondents:

‘Dustbin lorry, fire engines, removal van, large delivery vans in general struggle on Cavendish with the number of parked cars.’

‘I drive a 7.4m motorhome and regularly struggle to pass vehicles at the end of Cavendish.’

‘Lorries stuck due to parked cars and oncoming traffic.’

‘An ambulance has struggled to get through especially at the narrow bit before the car park.’

‘I have witnessed large lorries and construction vehicles unable to pass parked cars and unable to let cars coming in the other direction pass as a result. This has frequently resulted in gridlock. One large lorry hit trees and mounted the pavement outside Cavendish apartments as I was walking my dog there. I had to move into the hedge.’

‘Seen large vehicles have to reverse down the road due to being unable to get any further. I also work for the ambulance service and getting the ambulance down the road can be difficult and delays our time getting to jobs due to parking making the road tight.’



'Watched a fire engine take ages to get through, one fireman hanging out of the window to inform the driver how much gap he had. No good in an emergency.'

'Trucks and delivery vehicles. The main route onto Cavendish Road is constantly an issue since the car park was closed tbh.'

'I witnessed a bus having to mount the pavement because a car was blocking the road.'

'.....parked cars not parked correctly.'

'No room to get through or park.'

'....have also seen a large van stuck & had to wait until a car was moved.'

'Trouble (with) cars at the narrow part, i.e. taxis parking on double yellow lines.'

'On two occasions the bus was prevented from travelling on Cavendish Road close to the junction with George Road. This resulted in a significant backlog of traffic and delay for passengers.'

'The bus driver tried to get attention by sounding the horn and then had to knock on doors to get the vehicle moved. This obviously considerably delayed the customers journey and also (delayed) the driver.'

'Removal vans, delivery vans, refuse trucks, work vehicles all have problems along Cavendish Road. Residents have to park on the roadside which makes it difficult for any large vehicles to progress easily or safely....'

'We once had furniture undelivered because the van driver could not get along Cavendish Road.'

'Gridlocked, because of narrow road, parked cars.'

'I have seen large lorries stuck and drivers knocking on doors in order to get cars moved.'



Nearly all of the respondents had to a greater or lesser extent had a problem travelling down Cavendish Road. Only one respondent thought that it had not got worse. If there is a difficulty, in the traffic movements on Cavendish Road, then there is instant gridlock and this means in many instances that traffic is brought to a standstill for significant periods of time. Delays of more than ten minutes for vehicles are not unusual. The increase in traffic volume and the higher number of parked vehicles contribute to heightened frustration and elevate safety risks for road users.

Survey Responses – The impact of the closure of Cavendish Road car park on drivers and pedestrians

In answering the question: ‘Since the Cavendish Road car park was closed in April 2023, how would you say that conditions on Cavendish Road, Wellington Street and other surrounding roads have changed,’ 94% believed that conditions had worsened. Most respondents said that the situation on Cavendish Road and the surrounding roads has become more difficult.

In MCLT’s submission to DDDC for the car park to be designated as an ACV, we conducted a survey regarding the number of resident’s cars parked in the car park in the evenings and weekends. There were, on a regular basis, thirty to forty cars parked in the car park overnight and at weekends. The number of cars parked and the length of time during which they were parked in the car park, far outweighed the amount of usage that DCC made of the car park. We proved to DDDC that this constituted an asset of community value. It was given its ACV status by DDDC (who are the holders of the Asset of Community Value Register) because of the social, environmental, and economic value to the local community that the car park provided and because it was used by them as an essential resource. These benefits have been curtailed by the closure of the car park, and this is reflected in the local community’s response to our survey.

This comment seemed to encapsulate the situation:

‘There are far more cars parked along the roads as residents can no longer park on the former DCC car park out of working (hours). Most of the pavements are very narrow making it difficult for prams/pushchairs/wheelchairs etc to navigate safely and visibility is extremely difficult for small children to be seen by passing traffic. It is a very busy road, especially when football matches are on Cavendish playing fields.’

The difficulties for drivers and pedestrians caused by the closure of the car park, break down into the following categories:

- Pavement parking
- Pedestrian right of way
- Parking in unsuitable and inappropriate places
- The volume of parked cars
- Reduced passing places
- Accessing Cavendish Road from side streets

Pavement parking

This was a problem before the car park was closed. It is now a very serious problem. The pavement is often completely blocked off to pedestrians. Pedestrians often have to walk down the centre of the road because they are unable to use the pavements. The Department for Transport will, later this year, set out new regulations regarding pavement parking for local authorities to follow. This will require local authorities to prevent pavement parking where it causes problems for pedestrians. This will present DCC with a quandary. Pavement parking on Cavendish Road is highly problematic, but drivers park half on the pavement to allow the flow of traffic. DCC have closed the obvious solution to this situation, which is the use of the car park. These are some typical comments from respondents:

‘Cars blocked the pavements, making it very difficult for pedestrians and sometimes forcing us into the road to pass by. Cars are double parked, parked on single lines near the junction with Wellington Street. When there is football on the sports field it is absolute chaos.’

‘Cars parking where they shouldn’t as nowhere else to park and blocking pavements for pedestrians.’

‘Pavement parking throughout, cars have to use the blocked carpark entrance as parking bays. Turning out of George Road dangerously blind.’

Pedestrian right of way

This links to the above. Respondents identified that pedestrians cannot use the pavements safely and that their right of way is compromised. Partially sighted, those with pushchairs and in wheelchairs are particularly at risk. Children walking to and from the local secondary school were also mentioned as being at risk as they tend to walk in groups and are often unaware of the dangers posed by traffic.

‘Now no parking for residents living close to the junction with Wellington St so having to park on the footpath to allow bus/large vehicles through, what about the pedestrian right of way??’

There are more responses provided by respondents in answer to questions 10,11 and 12 on issues for pedestrians and these are detailed later in this report.

Parking in unsuitable and inappropriate places

There were many responses that related to this. Parking on single and double yellow lines, therefore creating a danger to other road users was mentioned many times. Cars parked in the entrance to the car park therefore blocking the pavement and not allowing cars to pull in to let cars travelling in the opposite direction to pass was also mentioned many times.

‘People are parking too close to the junction with Wellington Street despite yellow lines which causes problems and there's more cars close to the junction with Wolds Rise which affects visibility.’

‘More cars parked on the road especially on the solid lines, cars parked on Wellington Street opposite the junction to Cavendish Road, really make it difficult to manoeuvre around the junction. Cars now park outside the entrance to the carpark which used to allow cars to pull in and give way. Since the car park has closed has caused traffic chaos down Cavendish Road.’

‘People having to park on road & around junctions where they didn't have to before the car park closed.’

‘Parking is so scarce that cars resort to parking dangerously or on yellow lines.’

‘Cars randomly parked at awkward positions.’

‘George Road has up to 20 cars belonging to residents. Parking causing problems. Have had several parked in front of my garage, on my property and preventing me exiting.’

The volume of parked cars



Many respondents mentioned the sheer volume of parked cars. This has increased substantially at all times of the day and weekday and weekends. One respondent alluded to the situation when Chatsworth Hall was used by DCC and the car park became full, forcing DCC employees to park on the road. However, this was many years ago and the volume of traffic caused by more properties with more than one car and more delivery vehicles has significantly increased since then.

‘There’s an extreme amount of cars owned by residents along Cavendish Road and adjoining roads. With the car park being blocked off, they have had no choice but to park along the roads and pavement. This causes obstruction to both pedestrians and vehicles if not parked correctly. This then causes extra hazards while driving for example hard to see pedestrians walking out between the cars, no passing places especially during the weekends when it’s football which then leads to dangerous roads and traffic jams.’

‘Since the car park was closed, the situation has gotten a lot worse. Not just on Cavendish Road, but the section of Wellington Street that runs past Cavendish. Cars parked everywhere at the weekends and evenings.’

‘More parked cars on the sides of the roads, causing difficulty walking on the pavement with a pushchair and children on bikes.’

‘It is incredibly difficult trying to weave in and out of parked cars and avoid cars coming in the opposite direction.’

‘Too many cars parked in dangerous places. No visibility.’

‘Too many cars from Rockside Apartments parking on the road not leaving enough spaces for those on Cavendish Road with no drives.’

‘People need some where to park things have moved on, households may have 2, 3 or 4 cars (these) days we are no (longer) in the pony and trap era.’

Reduced passing places

Cavendish Road, as has already been mentioned, is a narrow road. Today it would not fulfil the legal requirements for a new road servicing so many residencies. To travel East along Cavendish Road, drivers must drive along the wrong side of the road to avoid parked cars and pull into gaps between parked cars, to allow drivers coming in the opposite direction to continue their journey. The volume of cars parked on the road has resulted in much less opportunity to do this as there are a reduced number of passing places. This creates ‘stand-offs’ and dangerous situations as drivers often travel too fast to try to get to the next passing place or try to squeeze past cars coming in the other direction. This, sometimes resulting in frayed tempers or minor collisions. However, with the frequency of near misses and minor collisions it is likely to be only a matter of time before a serious incident occurs.

‘When coming onto Cavendish Road it is extremely difficult for cars to navigate the long stretch as they are unable to pass each other and there are no pull ins. many people are parking on the pavement or double yellow areas which creates bad bottlenecks all along that stretch. Also parking on the pavements along Wolds Rise.’

‘Much less space to pull in when cars coming the other way, especially around the entrance to the car park.’

‘Cars parked all over the place leaving no space for two-way traffic to progress causing jams.’

‘.....The entrance to the car park is always filled with parked cars. This means that this is no longer a safe situation to pull in and let incoming traffic pass. I have lived on the Cavendish estate since I was a child. The problem has got noticeably worse.’

Accessing Cavendish Road from drives and side streets

Pulling on to Cavendish Road from drives and side streets is becoming increasingly hazardous. Respondents identified that pulling out on to Cavendish Road when their vision is blocked by parked cars is dangerous. Because of the shortage of parking spaces, drivers tend to park cars close to side roads and drives. This, coupled with other drivers driving fast to get out of the way of oncoming cars creates hazardous situations.

‘Much, much worse for the whole (community) as displaced vehicles look for road parking in whole area but particularly bad on the first 490 metres of Cavendish. Causes some confrontations too and on many cases close misses for RTAs as pulling out of drives is now very dangerous.’

‘Can't see round or past cars to pullout or overtake. Also dangerous for people walking on the pavements, especially with children.’

‘Parking has got much worse and they now park opposite the junction of Cavendish and Wellington Street.’



'Cars are parked everywhere close to junctions making visibility difficult & dangerous when pulling out of my road which leads onto Cavendish Road.'

'I live on a side road leading onto Cavendish Road - as a driver it is dangerous for me to leave my road because cars are parked both sides of my road making it dangerous to pull out. The offending cars could park in the CP if it was reopened which would improve safety.'

Survey Responses – Pedestrian use of pavements on Cavendish Road

Most of Cavendish Road only has a pavement on the North side of the road. The pavement for most of its length is narrow, uneven and in some places sloping. Questions 10, 11 and 12 were included in the survey to give a voice to residents who regularly use the pavement along Cavendish Road. Question 11 asked residents if they considered the pavements on Cavendish Road adequate? We thought long and hard over the term ‘adequate.’ We did not want to know about the state of the surface of the pavements. However, most respondents understood the context in which we used the term.

Seventy-two percent said that they were unhappy with the conditions on Cavendish Road. Some felt unsafe because of the narrowness of the pavement and the speed of the traffic. Only two respondents said that they never used the pavement.

Many respondents felt that the pavements were too narrow. However, some commented that where the pavement was wider, they also had cars parked on them. The overwhelming response was that the pavements were difficult to navigate, especially with cars partially blocking them.

Many respondents noted that they had to walk in the road in order to avoid parked cars.

There was a significant number of respondents who commented on the difficulties of using pushchairs and wheelchairs. Some are listed below. There were many more.

There was a small minority of respondents who thought that the situation regarding the pavements was fine.

Many respondents spoke of their experience of walking on the pavement on Cavendish Road in other questions. These experiences have been referenced in the survey responses above.

Here are examples of responses to Questions 10, 11 and 12.

‘Lethal for anyone with a pushchair/pram or any pedestrian as you have to walk on the road (because of) the parked cars!’

‘The surface is slippery in poor weather and they are littered with cars.’

‘The narrow pavements are to be expected, given their age. The cars half parked on them is the problem.’

‘It’s difficult to navigate the pavements as there are too many cars parked partially or fully on the pavements, due to a lack of general parking.’

‘There is mostly pavement on one side of the road only which are often taken up by parked cars. It is difficult to pass them without sometimes having to walk into the road. As cars speed along this road, mostly the football traffic, there have been a number of near misses with myself and my dog.’

‘When I used a pushchair, I would always have to go on the road due to cars being almost fully on the pavement.’

‘Usually, cars parked on (the pavement) which makes it difficult to get past them, often see people with pushchairs having to go on the road to get past.’

‘When going along with pram and sometimes even without I have ended up having to go on the road as unable to pass cars that have parked on the pavement.’

‘Very difficult pushing pushchairs and wheelchair along.’

‘I use a pushchair for my grandson and have to walk in the middle of the road to get past cars that are forced to park very near or on the pavement to ensure the road is accessible.’

‘Not safe because people park on the pavement causing people to walk on the road.’

‘There are too many potholes and too many cars parked on the pavement to allow access for either anyone in a wheelchair or pushing a pushchair.’

‘Too narrow for pedestrians and certainly no room for buggies, trolleys etc.’

‘BUGGIES CANNOT GET THROUGH!’



‘As stated in the previous question vehicles park on the pavements particularly coming onto Cavendish Road from Wellington Street. This causes difficulty to pedestrians particularly those with pushchairs and mobility problems.’

‘Too narrow to allow parking.’

In reading the responses to this part of the questionnaire, there was a palpable sense of frustration on the part of the responses. This is detailed below in the section ‘The Sense of Injustice.’

Survey Responses - Accidents

We put the question 'In respect of accidents in this area have you or someone you know been involved in an accident?' into the survey with the thought that there may have been one or two accidents.

Fourteen respondents who said that they had been involved in an accident in the area is a high number. Nine additional respondents said that their vehicle had been damaged, and twenty respondents said that they had witnessed an accident. We know anecdotally, that 'damage' has included broken wing mirrors on parked cars from passing vehicles and scratches along the sides of vehicles parked in a way to partially block the pavement.

We did not ask for further information from respondents, and it seems fortuitously that these accidents were without serious injury as they were not reported to the police and there is nothing on the Department for Transport MAVRIC (Mapping Application for Visualising Road Injuries Casualties) site up to the end of 2024. There are no statistics for 2025. Fourteen accidents and an additional nine instances of damage to vehicles seem to be a large number in such a small postcode area within such a short time period.

Correlation is not causation, but it is difficult not to draw a link between the closure of the car park which has created more hazards and risk on Cavendish Road. There is always risk when driving but the closure of the car park has likely increased the potential hazards on the road and therefore, the consequent risk to pedestrians and drivers has increased. If we had not carried out our survey, these statistics would not be known.

Residents need to know that their cars are reasonable safe from damage. Parking in the car park afforded that assurance to local residents. A car is an expensive commodity, and owners have a reasonable expectation that, if parked in a responsible way, that their car would not be damaged.

Survey Responses - Do you agree that reopening the car park (or part of it) would improve things for drivers and pedestrians on Cavendish Road and surrounding roads?

There was near universal agreement that opening the car park would provide improvement on Cavendish Road and the surrounding roads. Only two respondents answered by saying that they were not sure.

Respondents answered this question by imagining what Cavendish Road would be like if the car park were opened again. It was clear that respondents did not see the opening of the car park as a universal panacea. The physical limitations of the road would continue to exist, there would still be blockages and problems from time to time, but the hazards would be reduced and therefore the risk to drivers and pedestrians alike would also diminish. Safety was a major concern for many respondents.

Most respondents made similar positive comments. They identified how, by removing a significant number of parked cars the situation would be alleviated.

‘Too many cars, needs off roading parking. Only option really is opening the car park ensuring it’s for locals.’

‘It would create better access to the estate and more room for cars and pedestrians.’

‘Hopefully it would get a lot of the residents’ cars off the pedestrian footpath and people could walk safely.’

‘Logically, there should be fewer cars on the road/pavement if people choose to use the car park.’

‘It would ease parking problems considerably and would ease access problems.’

‘It would take cars off the road and improve visibility and therefore safety.’

‘Less cars clogging up the entrance to Cavendish has got to be a good thing.’

‘The sheer amount of cars.....brief drive down the street especially when it's busy it's pretty obvious that extra parking would be a good idea.’

‘Massively agree. Residents can use the car park which decreases the volume of cars parked on the road. This will stop the bus getting stuck, pedestrians being able to use the pavement properly. Safe passing places when football is on. Overall, it would reduce possible accidents and make Cavendish Road so much better.’

‘It would make the road safe for all users. It would allow buses to get around and larger vehicles. There may also be an option to introduce speeding controls which is needed.’

‘Reopening the carpark will help. However, double yellow lines on both sides of Cavendish Road is the only answer to allow free flowing traffic. And stop vehicles parking on the pavement.’

'The cars currently parking on the road would be able to have allocated car parking spaces and yellow lines should be painted all along Cavendish Road to the junction with Wolds Rise to allow easier access.'

'Houses that have no private parking have no option but to park on Cavendish Rd. These residents used to park in the car park. Equally, residents would direct visitors to park in the car park.'

'Only agree if cars do not park on the pavement on Cavendish Road.'

'I lived at No [redacted] for 40 plus years and the car park kept vehicles off the roadside.'

'Simply, presently far too little room for parking on this densely populated street.'

'There would be less cars on the road. If the car park was reopened, I think the very narrow part at the start of Cavendish Road should have double yellow lines painted. I have no idea how the bin lorry gets through.'

'Reopening the car park would be hugely beneficial. It would get parked cars off the roads and provide a safe place for cars to be parked. It would also take away the anger and frustration of drivers.'

'The Relief it would give to the road is hard to put into words, it needs to happen and double yellows all down and around the estate and Cavendish Road, then give a parking space allocated to the homes without a drive or garage etc, permits.'

'Drivers would be able park their car safely, vehicles would be able to drive up Cavendish Road safely and pedestrians would be able to walk the paths safely.'

'Would make a massive difference to the car parking nightmare we have at the moment.'

The above are just a selection of over one hundred positive responses. While perspectives may vary, it is evident that the local community believes reinstating this valuable resource is essential. In the responses there are also imaginative suggestions as to how the car park could be managed and how traffic could be controlled on Cavendish Road.

The Social Impact of Closing the Car Park

Much can be discussed regarding the traffic conditions on Cavendish Road and nearby streets, including the challenges faced by drivers, heightened risks, and other related concerns. One piece of the puzzle that can easily be overlooked is the social aspect of closing the car park.

While the survey did not specifically address this topic, numerous elements of the social impact of closing the car park were revealed through feedback provided by local residents. The danger to parents and babies with the use of prams and push chairs; the impact on wheelchair users and mobility scooters and the increased dangers to schoolchildren have all been mentioned and this came out in a range of answers to the existing questions.

However, there are a significant number of older residents in the Cavendish Road community. Some, who live on their own and who need medical or other support, have been impacted by the often-chaotic situation on Cavendish Road. One comment made by a local resident following the survey was that the time that their carer had to spend with them had, on many occasions, been significantly reduced due to hold-ups on Cavendish Road or the inability of the carer to find somewhere to park.

There have also been poignant comments that give an insight into the detail of people's lives that have been seriously impacted by the situation on Cavendish Road:

'(I) find it difficult to move along the pavement, I wanted to take my disabled father to see my mum as he lives in a home but with cars part parked on the pavement I was unable to as it would have meant him being pushed in the road.'

'It is making the area my elderly parents live in inaccessible to them, notably now my mum with increased mobility issues.'

'Parking to visit friends is often impossible because of volume of already parked cars.'

'Friends do not visit because they are unable to park.'

'Drivers that used the car park at weekends and evening are now having to park wherever they find a space, my son was visiting me and had to park virtually at the top end of Cavendish Road close to the sports ground.'

Increased social isolation is a growing problem in the United Kingdom. The Office for National Statistics found that 27% of adults reported feeling lonely sometimes or always. The Government's Tackling Loneliness strategy review identified groups who are likely to experience severe loneliness such as those who are older, disabled or living alone with a severe impact on mental health. The responses to our survey suggest that the closing of the car park and the subsequent consequences contribute to this problem in our own community.

The Sense of Injustice

The sense of injustice and the feeling that a local authority by its very existence is supposed to make things better for local people ran through the responses and cropped up in the answers to the different question we asked:

‘The car park is closed and been unused for years now. It’s placed too many parked cars on the road creating so much congestion. It’s so pointless having the car park closed with no work being done on it. Why not keep it open.....’

‘Absolutely ridiculous and totally unfair to tax paying local residents that the car park has been blocked off.’

‘Space is currently unused and wasted. Cars could park there making it much easier to navigate Cavendish Road.’

‘It’s obvious- there isn’t enough parking. They have stopped people using a car park for no reason.’

‘It seems unbelievable that the car park was closed when there is obviously a great need for safe parking on Cavendish Road and Wellington Street.’

Derbyshire County Council argued that to place the car park up for sale they needed ‘vacant possession’ and therefore had to close the car park off. However, the car park has been closed for nearly three years during which time the situation on Cavendish Road has only got worse. In closing off the car park, DCC also barricaded the rear entrances to properties onto the car park. This, at the time was perceived as vindictive and sparked national media interest.

Conclusions

Derbyshire County Council closed Cavendish Road car park with no consultation with the primary users, the local community. The closure was a serious mistake. It created unnecessary chaos on the roads and pavements on Cavendish Road and detrimentally affected the lives of residents who live in the local community.

It is a disappointment, to put it mildly, that DCC have never talked to the local community except when they have been forced to through the insistence of MCLT, about the use of the car park and why they think that to put it up for sale as a 'development opportunity' instead of enhancing it as an essential asset for the community was a sensible action. This survey by MCLT cannot rectify this lack of consultation by DCC, as it is something that they should have done, but it documents the feelings of our local community and the consequences of its closure.

As can be seen from our survey, there is local knowledge and understanding that can only come from the lived experience of local people of the traffic problems and other issues on Cavendish Road. These have become exponentially worse through the closure of the car park. They need to be remedied with some thought for the needs of local people and a willingness to find solutions to problems rather than to exacerbate them. There is a great strength of feeling regarding the injustice of the act of closing the car park and a sense of frustration and bewilderment as to why DCC could imagine that this is the correct or socially responsible thing to do.

The new laws relating to pavement parking which local authorities will need to address this year will require positive solutions from DCC. Merely banning pavement parking on Cavendish Road and reducing parking places will further demoralise an already cynical community. However, it is clear that the present situation is untenable. The possibility of a very dangerous/ serious traffic incident is greatly increased due to the increased hazards on the road which has increased risk. MCLT are in talks with DCC regarding the future of the Cavendish Road car park and we are hoping for a positive and imaginative solution. As one respondent said reopening the car park 'would make the bus driver happier!' It would also go a long way in improving the quality of life for local residents.

Markham May

Chair – Matlock Community Land Trust

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