



5 August 2025

### Request

Please may I request a list of all correspondence (email, letter, social media etc. to which the Constable of Grouville - Mark Labey- is referring) - anonymised as necessary to permit the FOI to succeed.

The Grouville Road committee minutes use the words "some" and "significant" suggesting a small amount of negative feedback and a large amount of positive feedback regarding the "red road" in Grouville.

My analysis of social media suggests that the public feedback was overwhelmingly negative. It is important that minutes are an accurate reflection for accountability and posterity.

<https://grouville.je/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/07/20250618-RC-Minutes-18.06.2025-1.pdf>

<https://grouville.je/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/07/20250623-RC-Minutes-23.06.2025.pdf>

### Response

The email and postal correspondence received by the Parish regarding the painted pavements at Rue de la Haye du Puits is attached.

The feedback received verbally was not recorded and is therefore not held. *(FOI exemption Article 10 applies)*

The Grouville Parish Hall social media Facebook site is available to the public and therefore accessible by other means. *(FOI exemption Article 23 applies)*

Other social media channels are not held by the Parish. *(FOI exemption Article 10 applies)*

### FOI Articles applied:

#### Article 10 - Obligation of scheduled public authority to confirm or deny holding Information

(1) Subject to paragraph (2), if –

- (a) a person makes a request for information to a scheduled public authority; and
- (b) the authority does not hold the information,  
it must inform the applicant accordingly.

(2) If a person makes a request for information to a scheduled public authority and –

- (a) the information is absolutely exempt information or qualified exempt information; or
- (b) if the authority does not hold the information, the information would be absolutely exempt information or qualified exempt information if it had held it,

the authority may refuse to inform the applicant whether or not it holds the information if it is satisfied that, in all the circumstances of the case, it is in the public interest to do so.

(3) If a scheduled public authority so refuses –

- (a) it shall be taken for the purpose of this Law to have refused to supply the information requested on the ground that it is absolutely exempt information; and

- (b) it need not inform the applicant of the specific ground upon which it is refusing the request or, if the authority does not hold the information, the specific ground upon which it would have refused the request had it held the information.

**Article 23 - Information accessible to applicant by other means**

Information is absolutely exempt information if it is reasonably available to the applicant, otherwise than under this Law, whether or not free of charge. A scheduled public authority that refuses an application for information on this ground must make reasonable efforts to inform the applicant where the applicant may obtain the information.





Kindness • Responsibility • Challenge

# Grouville School

Always be the best you can be

Newsletter 16 ~ 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Mrs Nichola Turner



We hope you enjoyed the Half Term break and are ready for the final term of the year. It's going to be a busy and exciting one, so please keep an eye on the calendar to see what's coming up.

Thank you for joining us to cheer on and encourage EYFS and KS1 at their Sports Day - weren't they all sporting superstars! It was wonderful to see them having such a fun time. Huge thanks to the KS1 and EYFS team for organising such a successful afternoon.

Here's wishing Y3 and Y5 a wonderful time next week at St. Aubin's Fort - we can't wait to hear all about your adventures. Huge thanks to all the staff supporting these trips and making them possible!

**Don't forget to login to Seesaw to share our learning. 😊**

### Celebrations Afternoon

It's our Celebration Afternoon on Thursday 19 June (2.15 to 3.30pm and 5.00 to 6.00pm.) and the children are looking forward to sharing their learning with you. Please feel free to visit all classrooms especially the year above (from 3pm onwards). We look forward to seeing you there!

An email will be sent out closer to the time sharing more information.

**Article 28:** All children have the right to learn and go to school.

**Article 29:** All children have the right to become the best that they can be.

### PSA update

Thank you to everyone who supported and helped at the PSA disco - the children had a fabulous time and we raised £1,200!

Plans for the Summer Fete are well underway. Please check the email sent out recently outlining how you can get involved and support. The PSA are inviting children to dressdown tomorrow in return for a good quality donation for our very popular Toy Stall. 😊

**Shopping online? Sign up to EasyFundraising via the PSA website page to raise money for the PSA.**

### Thank you to the Connétable!

Huge thanks to the Connétable, the Roads Committee and the Parish of Grouville for our painted pavement. We are hugely grateful to the Parish for prioritising our children's and families' safety, having listened to our concerns and pupil voice. A big, big thank you for helping to keep us safe! Please check out Y1's photos on Seesaw trying out the new pathway - they did a great job and we loved their posters. And a big thank you for your positive feedback and to those who spoke so positively on the media reports this week - it was hugely appreciated.

We have also had some new bikes racks installed by the East gate, with more and scooter pods due to be fitted in the Summer holidays. Many thanks to the Department of Infrastructure.





Newsletter 16 ~ 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Mrs Nichola Turner



### The Jersey Oracy Festival

Well done to Stephanie, Gemma, Jack and Theo for representing Grouville at the Jersey Oracy Festival. The children took part in a Peer Mediation session, along with Le Rocquier students to demonstrate their oracy skills in action and show how they can be applied to resolve conflict. We were so proud of them! 😊

### Staff Update

We are delighted to share that we have appointed Mrs. Coupland as our new Nursery Teacher for September. Mrs. Coupland has a wealth of Early Years' experience and we look forward to her joining our staff team.

Our Teacher arrangements for 2025-26 are as follows:

**Nursery** - Mrs Coupland

**Reception** - Miss Le Maistre & Miss Sharman

**Year 1** - Mrs Kellett & Miss Rogers

**Year 2** - Mr Ahier & Mrs Risebrow

**Year 3** - Miss Cudlipp & Mrs Le Bas

**Year 4** - Mrs Galvin & Miss Langford

**Year 5** - Mr Arrowsmith & Mrs Key

**Year 6** - Mrs Buesnel & Mrs Hall

### Dates for the Diary...

- 6 June - PSA Dressdown - toy/ game donation for the Summer Fete
- 9 & 10 June - Y3 @ St. Aubin's Fort
- 10 June - Y2 @ Hamptonne
- 11-13 June - Y5 @ St. Aubin's Fort
- 16 & 17 June - Y5 Peer Mediation training
- 19 June - Celebrations Afternoon
- 26 June - Y2 Razor Fishing
- 27 June - PSA Summer Fete
- 30 June - Y5 Swimsafe
- 1 July - KS2 Sports Day
- 2 July - Y5 @ Speak up, Speak Out
- 3 & 4 July - Y6 Transition Days/ Move Up Days
- 7-11 July - Y6 Activity Week
- 11 July - Y5 @ Safety in Action
- 14 & 15 July - Y4 @ Crabbe
- 17 July - Y6 Leavers' Celebration @ 1:30pm
- 18 July - Last day of Summer Term
- 2 Sept - Inset Day (school closed)
- 3 Sept - Start of Autumn Term
- 11 Sept - Inset Day (school closed)

### A message from the Well-being Team...

We wanted to share a useful website with you - Place2Be has a wealth of information and resources to support children's mental health and well-being. We particularly like their Art Room activities: Art activities from The Art Room - Place2Be - which has lots of ideas of creative activities you can try with your children.

### A few reminders...

#### Please, please...

- ensure all items of uniform are clearly labelled.
- don't forget suncream, hats and water bottles!
- Please advise the school office if your child will be absent from school for any reason.

Thank you!

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 July 2025 15:14

To: Grouville <ParishHall@grouville.je>

Subject: Access to Grouville School

Good day.

I cycled by Grouville School last week and saw the red painted pedestrian access on the roads. I had read so many negative comments criticising the red markings.

I just wanted to pass a positive word onto your Constable for having the vision in creating a safer route to school.

Well done Grouville for taking this matter seriously and for doing something positive.

I cannot understand why people are against such developments. A recent visit to France reminded me that Red paint on the roads to highlight danger and 30 kph (20 mph) speed restrictions are both commonplace.

Hopefully other Parishes will follow your lead.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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Hi Mark,

Strange that, I have found nobody who thinks the red pavement is suitable.

However, if you have already spent the unnecessary level of money, I imagine you are not going to change your mind.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

From: Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je>

Sent: 20 June 2025 10:58

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: UK Consultants and Red Pavements

It doesn't matter who writes reports, we still have to react to them or be heavily criticised or worse for not doing so.

Stand by red pavement as it has had a very positive reaction from so many. We still receive them daily

Mark Labey

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:05:39 AM

To: Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je>

Cc: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Subject: UK Consultants and Red Pavements

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mark,

I believe more than once last night you denigrated the use of UK Consultants.

However, I would point out that you commented in relation to the dreadful red pavement around Grouville School as follows :-

"Over recent decades cars have become much wider and larger and following a UK Consultant report commissioned by the Government and published in January 2022 about safety around the School, I agreed to implement their safety recommendations. "

A bit of a contradiction I feel.

However, attached are two photos as to how Trinity and Les Amis deal with the pavement issue a little more subtlety and without UK Consultants.

Enjoy the weather and have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

*IMG 1569 and IMG 1572 has been attached separately to this email response.*

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 7:43:21 AM

To: Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je>

Cc: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Subject: Road Painting - La Rue de la Haye du Puits

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Connétable Labey,

For the record this email is a joint email being sent to you on behalf of:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Road Painting – La Rue de La Haye du Puits**

We refer to your letter dated 22 May 2025 concerning the above roads project.

On receiving your letter which was delivered by hand on Friday, 22 May, [REDACTED] telephoned the Parish Hall at 3.15 p.m. to speak to someone in order to ascertain further details regarding the road painting project. [REDACTED] believed your office was open until 4.00 p.m. However, your messaging service went to voicemail, so [REDACTED] left a message asking someone to return his call. No response was received so [REDACTED] fully intended to call back to ascertain why his call received no response from your office and to find out more details concerning the road painting project.

The road painting project commenced on Saturday, 31 May and as far as we can see it seems to have been completed on Sunday, 1 June 2025.

We are devastated with the outcome and the damage done by this project to the rustic charm and aesthetic beauty of this countryside area and as such we wish to highlight the following concerns:

Nowhere in your letter of 22 May is there any reference whatsoever to the planned “pavement” being painted a striking red colour and edged with a white line. Seeing the awful outcome we feel you have been very economical with the reality in not fully informing affected parishioners and more specifically ratepayers of an extremely important detail concerning the project. We also fail to see how a red pavement with a white line aligns with the rustic aesthetic of this local countryside lane and its surrounding area.

We have checked the minutes of the Roads Committee meetings and we note mention of pavements in general terms in these scant minutes and for example whether they need Planning approval and so on but we see no mention of what areas in the Parish are being targeted for these pavements nor the decision making process with regard to the colour to be used. Could you, therefore, confirm who took the actual decision to paint this pavement with such a misaligned colour for a country lane location without any form of consideration or consultation with those people being directly affected by this choice of colour as well as a copy of the designated powers invested in you as Constable regarding this decision-making process.

We are not sure what the addition of the pavement is likely to achieve. Is it a decision that was instigated by Grouville School itself or does it rest with the Parish authorities?

From our perspective, we can only see it presenting further challenges for drivers especially the larger vehicles that use the lane and pedestrians alike on what is already a very difficult tight

stretch of road to navigate, bearing in mind the actual width of the lane itself and the size of modern vehicles. There will be further problems when the vegetation becomes overgrown with cars and pedestrians being seriously impacted by the creation of this pavement. The present impact of traffic will become worse and we cannot understand why this project was at all necessary in the first place.

Please also advise what other country lanes have had this type of pavement installed and have any been painted red or in a similarly mis-matched colour? As we have said we are not sure what the addition of this pavement will achieve and it will no doubt have a significant cost attached to the road painting including all the paint plus the equipment used and the labour necessary. These costs will no doubt fall on ratepayers and as ratepayers we totally object to Parish funds being used to deface a lovely country lane in this way.

In view of the above, we believe it would have been far more practicable to have had a consultation session prior to this project taking place e.g. at Grouville Parish Hall with the residents of all the properties adjoining La Rue de La Haye du Puits. This would have given the residents an opportunity to raise their serious concerns and be fully briefed on the planned project. Furthermore, we believe that is what accountable governance should actually look like, in total contrast to the rather impersonal and the *fait accompli* nature of your letter of 22 May. Your letter also failed to outline the actual reasoning or specific purpose of such a project so your communication with your parishioners and especially with those being directly affected comes across as exceedingly unimpressive.

Your actions of such a serious nature have given us serious concern.

We will be considering our position further as well as all other options available to us in these circumstances including communicating with relevant States Members' regarding these issues.

We also need to seek advice as to whether there will be any potential impact on the saleable value of our properties as a result of your decision.

Furthermore, we are also sure this issue is not going to go away quietly as many passers-by and groups are already shocked at the damage done and have negatively commented on the outcome.

We look forward to receiving your response.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 4:06:48 PM  
**To:** Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je>  
**Subject:** Re: Hair Du Puits Road

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)  
**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks Mark , quite naturally we will be challenging this

Perhaps as you consulted you could give the Parish view on who owns that strip of land ?

On 3 Jun 2025, at 15:27, Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je> wrote:

Dear Sir,  
I would be willing to accept any legal representations with regard to your claim.  
I will say again that I am responding to a Government Report and its recommendations and if I don't do so I would be held responsible for any injuries sustained in these lanes because I did not respond to them.  
Mark Labey

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 3:17:51 PM  
**To:** Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je>  
**Subject:** Re: Hair Du Puits Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mark

I'm sorry but the public outcry has been far greater than the support. You can clearly see the comments online that make us a laughing stock of the island.

I'm not disagreeing that a path could be utilised but the colour you have chosen is not in keeping with other lanes. The problem lies with people cycling up no entry and kids scooting along on balance bikes while mothers push prams whilst on mobile phones.

As Parish rate payers we should have been consulted  
This will also ultimately affect the value of our properties.

It's impossible for any car to speed around these bends.

Like I said we are the laughing stock of the island

I ask that you reconsider and find a solution that is in keeping with the surroundings  
Please note you have also painted across our land so this needs to be rectified asap  
The red line outside Haie Du Puits is owned collectively by the residents not by the Parish

On Tue, 3 Jun 2025 at 14:44, Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je> wrote:

Rue de la Haye du Puits was part of a government report published in January 2022.

This report was commissioned to examine the traffic and safety issues around Grouville Primary School.

One of the recommendations of the report was to establish painted pavements in the lanes surrounding the school.

I agreed to take this issue to our Roads Committee and they agreed with me and the Head Teacher of the school that we needed to act on this issue.

They have now been created and we have had a lot of support for this project and not just from the School.

My primary concern is the safety of young children and their guardians as they move to and from the school.

Regards

Mark Labey

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 31 May 2025 13:49  
**To:** Grouville <ParishHall@grouville.je>  
**Subject:** Hair Du Puits Road

Hi

As a resident of Haie Du Puits you have absolutely destroyed a picturesque lane , it's absolutely disgusting what has been done

Why could a simple cycle path not be kept in keeping with the area ? And why put a red line outside our entrance !

I'm sorry but you have completely got this wrong you have ruined a landmark lane in the parish !

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 June 2025 15:38  
**To:** Grouville <ParishHall@grouville.je>  
**Subject:** La Rue de la Haye du Puis virtual pavement markings

Dear Connetable,

I write to congratulate you and the Parish and Infrastructure and Environment teams in the installation of the virtual pavement markings in the above-cited road.

As an occasional user of this road, mainly as a dog walker, I consider it to be a useful /essential safety measure, especially given the significant use by parents and/or school children. Red is clearly an appropriate colour to bring safety measures to the attention of drivers, many of whom fail to slow down when passing pedestrians. The reaction from nearby 'NIMBYs' appears to be over the top, but doubtless over time there will a general acceptance of he measures taken.

Kind regards.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 8:53:40 AM  
**To:** Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je>  
**Cc:** Carolyn Labey <C.Labey@gov.je>; parishhall <parishhall@grouville.je>  
**Subject:** Painted pavement

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mark,

I understand that the Roads Committee are responsible for desecrating our country lanes. Is this really necessary?

I and my neighbours are literally seeing red over this.

Sad to see a country parish abused in this way.

Are there any plans afoot to further spoil and urbanise our country parish with red paint?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Chris Osgood <Chris.Osgood@grouville.je>

**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 5:02:00 PM

**To:** Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je>; Peter Le Cuirot <Peter.LeCuirot@grouville.je>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** [REDACTED]

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mark

Following our meeting today with the owner of [REDACTED], here are some notes. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I explained to the Ladies who I was and that my position is neutral.

[REDACTED]

Here points are, in no particular order: -

#### Negative comments

- The value of her house has been reduced
- Her house now looks terrible
- The red lines are horrific
- Her daughter [REDACTED] does not want to live in the house
- People are mocking her house, saying it is ugly.
- The Parish have encroached over her boundary
- [REDACTED] became emotional and tearful.
- She would paint over them at the weekend – CJO strongly recommended, not in a threatening way, that she did not do that. She thanked CJO for the advice.
- Why could the school and parents train their children to keep to the pavement around the Beausite hotel.
- Her wall had been damaged by the workmen.

#### Observations

- When asked about the concept of the road markings she was OK with them in principle
- She seemed happy that the markings in La Rue de Haie de Puits were red.
- She did not like red being used along her stretch of road.
- She preferred green paint

I'm sure Mark can add to these notes but we should wait for any more public comments before discussing what to do, if anything.

Regards Chris

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 9:51:51 AM  
To: Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je>  
Subject: Red line marking

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning

We are in France and our attention has been drawn to what appears to be a wide red line marking on a certain road in Grouville.

Apart from the fact that it looks hideous it will not protect people walking on it. It is not walled and pedestrians should not feel safe when walking on it.

What you have authorized is hideous and I am surprised that someone with a supposedly Jersey heritage would allow this to happen.

This is further degrading the heritage of the Island in my view and must cease.

I look forward to your comments as a Jersey Tax payer.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 June 2025 20:30  
**To:** Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je>  
**Subject:** Painted lines outside Grouville school

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mark,

I just wanted to take a moment to say that the decision to create the red walkway outside the school was an excellent one.

Every point you made to the press was spot on – the tone and language struck exactly the right note.

As a parent who drives that road every day, I've often thought how dangerous it is without a designated pedestrian walkway. This change will make a real difference.

Any criticism you receive is, in my view, unwarranted and I know I'm not alone in supporting your decisive action.

I appreciate how challenging your role can be, and how rare it is to receive positive feedback, which is exactly why I wanted to send this note.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

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From: Nichola Turner [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 9:40:26 AM

To: Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je>

Subject: Road Safety Concerns

Dear Mark,

I have tried to gather what I can. I'm hoping to have a couple more testimonies from parents too. Happy to catch up and discuss when you can! I have had permission from the child and family for you to use this photo on your website etc.

Thanks ever so much,

Nichola

Feedback about the new painted pavement:

Dear Nichola

We just wanted to pass on our feedback regarding the new red pathway around our school.

When my son first started at Grouville four years ago, he was almost struck by a car whilst I was pushing his sisters buggy and walking the dog on the morning school run. I was very upset, particular as this was his first week of starting school and we hadn't lived in Grouville for very long.

On the road directly outside the front of school a driver was not paying attention and came within centimetres of my sons feet. From then on, I have worried whenever we have to use the nursery and reception entrances and as my daughter began toddling, it became just as tricky to navigate this road with distracted drivers.

The introduction of the pathway has been welcomed by most of us parents who are now much more at ease and able to keep our children safe. The pathway has not only given us somewhere for our children to walk along, it keeps drivers attention focused not to get too close to our children.

I only wish they had continued the pathway around the entirety of the school and the road that leads to the cenotaph, as this is often where drivers speed. A lot of us parents now park near the cenotaph because we utilise the safe crossing with [REDACTED].

Please pass on our feedback to the department that organised this.

Parents of Grouville School continue to hope for a zebra crossing on la rue a don at the top of the field where children are often in danger because of speeding vehicles.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs Turner,

I wanted to take a moment to feedback on my experience of the new painted pathway on the road near school.

As you will remember, I had a couple of scary experiences when walking with the girls after school and after school club in the evening. Walking away from the school, especially in the dark, there were times when we turned the corner and a car had to stop quite quickly. In busy traffic it was especially hard to navigate the road with a young child and a toddler.

Since having the painted pathway, it is so much clearer where the pedestrians should walk, and much easier as a driver to navigate around the Children and adults walking in the road.

Additionally as a cyclist, it is a visual reminder that as I turn into the road I may encounter young children walking and I have noticed that I am mindful to slow down immediately as a result. Visual cues like these are so powerful in maintaining behavioural changes, such as safe driving or cycling.

As a driver, pedestrian and cyclist, I feel safer as a result of the new pathway. The safer I feel in the surrounding area, the more likely I am to encourage the girls to walk or cycle this route, which will of course make the whole area safer as a result.

Just wanted to send my initial thoughts, happy for them to be shared with the parish if you think this would be helpful.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: Nichola Turner [REDACTED]

Sent: 02 June 2025 10:40

To: Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je>

Subject: RE: Grouville School - School Travel Report discussion

I had a quick phone call with Peter but I did see some of the posts on Facebook! I've had some positive feedback from parents and children, who are thrilled with the painted pavement. Will try and get a few more photos at the end of the day.

Nichola

Nichola Turner

Headteacher - Grouville School - Jersey

[www.grouville.sch.je](http://www.grouville.sch.je)

Tel: 01534 851089

---

From: Nichola Turner [REDACTED]

Sent: 02 June 2025 10:38

To: Mark Labey <M.Labey@gov.je>

Subject: RE: Painted pavement

Dear Mark,

I'm so sorry that it causing you so much grief. We are hugely grateful for its installation – it's going to be so much safer for our children and families. How can I help?

Best wishes,

Nichola

Nichola Turner

Headteacher - Grouville School - Jersey

[www.grouville.sch.je](http://www.grouville.sch.je)

Tel: 01534 851089

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**For the attention of Nichola Turner**

Good morning

As a courtesy I am attaching a copy of a letter sent today (with attachments) to Constable Labey and the Roads Committee. You will note our strong opposition to the recent "pavement" painting which we believe to be unwarranted and little short of vandalism - a view which seems to have near unanimous support, in both parish and island-wide.

I would like to reassure you of our wish to do anything reasonable and effective with regard to road safety affecting the school. I hope my letter explains our views and I would be grateful for any information as to the past history of any incidents and accidents concerning the school children, of which we are not aware. It is relevant that when pupils are moving past traffic, those cars are occupied by the parents themselves. We all crawl along and are happy to do so.

Separately, there are logjams from time to time, albeit much less than previously. There is a contingent danger should access be required by emergency vehicles. I had previously suggested to the Constable and Roads Committee that a solution might be to reverse the flow along the school's internal road, so that entry is from Rue á Don. This would avoid school traffic having to navigate the "dangerous" first part of Rue de la Haye du Puits and it would then exit past the school with the ultimate option of turning left or right. This would, I realise, depend on the meticulous timing of pick ups and drop offs.

Also: has any thought ever been given to cutting back the bank between the school car park and towards the school entrance? This would allow a straight line pedestrian walkway from our entrance to where the road widens in front of the school. As it is, the cut back in front of our estate, with the two very short pavements, is not used and people walk along the road itself. This would mean removing some trees but they are replaceable. I respectfully suggest that these two suggestions would have a much more beneficial effect than the absurd "pavement" that has just been created.

I'd be happy to pop in to have a chat if helpful.

With best wishes to you all.



*The letter has been attached separately to this email response.*

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Good morning

**Rue de la Haye du Puits: painted "pavement"**

I am attaching, for the urgent attention of the Connétable and the Roads Committee, the following:

- a letter from the Residents Association of Haie du Puits estate regarding the recent painting of a "pavement"

- a photo of the entrance to that estate
- a photo of the alternative road marking in Trinity
- A copy of the Tevielka agreement dated 6th January 2015
- A copy of Sch 4 of that agreement

Given the island-wide controversy caused by the precipitative action of the Roads Committee, we should be grateful if this letter and attachments could be considered at the earliest opportunity.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Entrance to Haie du Puits estate



A rather simpler solution in Trinity...

2.

1. **IDENTIFICATION**

2. **DESCRIPTION**

3. **ANALYSIS**

4. **CONCLUSION**

5. **REMARKS**

6. **REFERENCE**

7. **APPENDIX**

8. **NOTES**

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*The letter has been attached separately to this email response.*

5<sup>th</sup> June 2025

To: Constable M Labey and the Roads Committee  
The Parish of Grouville

By email

Dear Constable Labey and members of the Roads Committee

**Rue de la Haye du Puits: painted pavement**

... whose view on this matter is unanimous and seemingly in accordance with the many expressions of horror, both in the Parish and island-wide, at what we regard as an unnecessary and ill-conceived despoilation of the beautiful country lane in which we live.

We are unhappy at the disrespectful lack of consultation with residents, who are stakeholders, and also that we received no notice of the roadworks on 8<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May, which caused inconvenience, despite complaints after the first closure. This is quite unacceptable. The flyer delivered before the second roadworks was vague and gave no detail – and no indication of the colour to be used. The minute of the Roads Committee was silent regarding colour: who made the decision to use bright red? Any argument that the bright colour is necessary for winter time is specious: even in winter pupil delivery and drop off takes place in daylight hours (and in darkness cars would have headlights on)

We would all agree that safety is of prime importance. Constable Labey has stated that the painted pavement was to comply with a safety report produced by UK consultants. Why was that necessary and what was the cost? How may we access that report? Is our Roads Committee, blessed with many years' experience, not capable of assessing a simple country lane? How many safety incidents involving cars, and how many accidents, have been reported in Rue de la Haye du Puits in the last 20 years to justify this extreme action?

The road is so narrow, and visibility so poor, that all traffic necessarily crawls along. It is not possible to speed. Indeed, at school drop off and pick up times, the traffic – which of course comprises the parents themselves – often creates a logjam that takes minutes to clear (and which the residents suffer without complaint). The writer has suggested a possible solution: to reverse the traffic on the school's internal road, such that cars enter from Rue á Don and exit left in front of the school, with a choice then of turning left or right to ease the flow. This would

avoid using the “dangerous” section of Rue de la Haye du Puits. Please confirm this will be considered by the Roads Committee and discussed with the Education department and the school.

When the paint was being applied on 20<sup>th</sup> May the smell was pungent. The operatives were wearing overalls and ventilating masks: can you please confirm that the paint, evidently toxic, is safe in the context of the school and also the adjacent and ecologically sensitive Le Pré Arthur?

What has the total cost of the exercise been, for the shallow trenching and the application of the paint on both roads?

There has been extensive comment on social media as well reporting in the media. Those of us who live here have been accosted by numerous parishioners and islanders wanting to know what is going on. Personally, I have spoken to no-one who is other than extremely critical of the project. In particular, there is clearly a general agreement that the garish “pavement” has ruined the appearance of the lane. Had green been chosen as the colour criticism might have been less strident. We ask that this be re-assessed. Grouville has once again become a laughing stock. I attach a photo of the Trinity solution: might a lesson be learned...?

Finally, I have to draw your attention to the fact that the entrance to our estate has been painted over. This is particularly noticeable as we drive or walk past. I attach a copy of the contract dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 to which the Parish was a party and Schedule 4 of that agreement. Please note that, while the strips of land either side were ceded to the Parish, the estate entrance, right up to the edge of the road itself, was retained by the estate, such that the parties to this letter retain title. The painting on what is private land was done without our permission, which we are not prepared to give. We must respectfully request that this area be reinstated at the earliest opportunity, by repainting with a suitable paint that will match the original tarmac. This will cost little. Please confirm that this will be carried out and soon.

Please also ensure that the questions raised in this letter are answered. Copies are being emailed to the Procureurs, our States Deputies, the Education minister and the headmistress.

## **COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE PAINTED PAVEMENT PROJECT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This paper confirms the concerns of the residents of La Rue de la Haye du Puits and Rue de la Croix regarding the 'pillar box red' painted pavement on these roads.

For the record, had a more sensible, less visually impacting colour and layout been selected there would have been more acceptable support. It is the execution, not necessarily the intention, that is the root of our concerns.

### **CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION**

- No consultation took place with the residents of La Rue de la Haye du Puits or Haie du Puits regarding the painted pavement project.
- No consultation took place with the residents most affected regarding the reasoning or the specific purpose of the project.
- The only communication received from the Parish was a hand delivered letter from the Constable to our houses on Friday, 23 May 2025. This letter was impersonal and had a distinct fait accompli tone.
- There was no reference to the payment being painted a striking 'pillar box red' and edged with a white line. This should have been confirmed to all those affected.
- The School Issues and Opportunities Report published in January 2022 recommended further engagement with Grouville School and wider stakeholders. This report was not shared with wider stakeholders as recommended in the Report.

### **THE PROJECT**

1. Without any warning and before residents were out and about, the road painting project was carried out by the Infrastructure Department on Saturday, 31 May and again on Sunday, 1 June 2025.
2. The application of the red paint created a lasting overpowering smell throughout our properties and the neighbourhood.
3. The project was completed over a weekend with no doubt double time or treble time being paid to the operatives working over a weekend.
4. These costs will no doubt fall on ratepayers and as ratepayers we confirm our total objection to Parish funds being used to deface a lovely country lane in this way. There will be further expenses to put right damage caused to our properties by the operatives involved.

### **KEY CONCERNS AND COMMENTS – QUESTIONS RAISED AND REMAINING UNANSWERED**

- Was any risk assessments carried out in relation to pedestrian and vehicle safety?
- Is there a formal public record of the number of incidents where people or children have been injured as a result of being struck by a vehicle in the lane?
- What is the intended benefit of a painted pavement in this location and how will it improved safety or access? It is unclear how such a measure will be effective given the constraints of the road width.
- A long standing concern is the unsupervised obstruction caused by parents stopping in the middle of the road not only at school drop-off and pick-up but throughout the day.
- Given the limited benefit and physical constraints, this project appears to be a disproportionate use of ratepayers' money.
- What criteria were used to prioritise this expenditure and have alternative solutions been considered?

- We are seeking confirmation from the Constable that the paint used was not toxic and not damaging to our health.
- The traffic report does not actually recommend a continuous virtual footpath along the entirety of La Rue de la Haye du Puits, nor does it mention or endorse the use of bright red paint. The scale and style of this implementation goes well beyond what was suggested.
- A pillar box red pavement with a white line does not align with the rustic aesthetic and beauty of this lovely countryside lane and its surrounding area.
- We have reviewed the minutes of the Grouville Roads Committee meetings. As a record of something so impactful on a green country lane they are very brief in detail, i.e:
  1. The colour to be used
  2. What areas in the Parish were being targeted for a painted pavement?
  3. The person that had formally authorised the colour to be used?
  4. Was the colour red formally approved?
  5. The cost to the Parish for such a scheme?
- During school drop-off and pick up times, residents actively avoid using the road because it is routinely blocked by parents' cars; a behaviour that constitutes an offence under the Road Traffic (Jersey) Law 1956.
- We request a copy of the official designated powers invested in the Constable to take such a decision.
- We confirmed that any positive feedback largely appears to come from school parents who only use the road briefly each day on school days. By contrast, residents use the road every day.

## **CONCLUSION**

- Was the reversal of traffic on the school track considered? A reversal would significantly reduce traffic along the lane up to the school during drop-off and pick up times and negate the need for a painted pavement outside our properties.
- We can see the safety concerns but, notwithstanding the point above, we dispute that red was the most appropriate colour taking into consideration that school drop-off and pick-up times are during daylight hours throughout the year.
- The vast majority of children at Grouville School are dropped off and collected by vehicle. This is precisely what causes the severe congestion that makes the road impassable during peak times.
- This project has caused immense distress and upset to those affected residents.
- We do not feel that any householder would be happy to have this colour outside their home.
- The painted pavement has not been placed outside the school where cars are parked, why? This too could be dangerous as children walking to school from the direction of La Rue de la Gare, etc are not protected at all.
- No other school has had a red painted pavement. They are all discreet and neutral in colour. The Parish should engage in urgent further discussion with all affected parties and the States departments involved.
- The 'alternative solutions' suggestions put forward by the residents of Haie du Puits should be discussed in full and that the Parish report back within reasonable time.

**21 JUNE 2025**



## COMMENTS RELATING TO THE NEW RED VIRTUAL "PAVEMENT"

### Introduction

This paper consolidates the concerns of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It should be read in conjunction with a paper being submitted on behalf of other close neighbours (collectively "the Residents"), who are affected by the garishly coloured new painted "virtual pavement" (the pavement) on our roads. These are claimed by the Parish authority to be necessary on account of significant dangers to pedestrian schoolchildren using those roads. The Residents have expressed outrage at not only the outcome but also the lack of consultation and the perceived reluctance of the Parish to answer most of the pertinent questions raised in individual complaints. The Residents now choose to speak with a collective voice.

In addition, the Residents have received considerable support from other parishioners, indicating overwhelming anger at the insensitive and immense adverse effect on a beautiful Grouville country lane. As good citizens, the Residents are proud of our school and would always give support to any action shown to be necessary for the safety of the children. Unfortunately, this appears not to have been proven. This paper is intended to be circulated in due course to the Parish, the school, our States representatives, Infrastructure, Education and generally to the media. Reference should be made to the separate appendix of photos.

### Background and justification

Constable Labey has stated that the reason for the pavement was to comply with a 2022 survey and report ("the Report") instigated by the Government of Jersey and conducted by UK consultants. (Why was this necessary?) In considering the safety aspect, the Report gives few statistics and rather relies on sketchy anecdotal evidence. Following a survey only five respondents (7%) reported being involved in an accident and only one such incident involved Rue de la Haye du Puits – but at the further end, at the junction "just before it meets La Croix" (sic). The Report states: *'The common theme throughout the near miss reports relates to vehicles driving carelessly... particularly on La Rue á Don'*. Rue á Don should have been the priority. No relevant incident seems to have been reported concerning the main section of Rue de la Haye du Puits. Indeed, the Report concludes (H5) that an investigation of new pedestrian routes along Rue de la Haye du Puits has the lowest priority rating of 11. At no point does the Report advocate a virtual pavement along that road.

The Parish has failed to confirm whether any formal risk assessment has been carried out. It seems clear that it hasn't. The Report states: *"Further investigation is recommended in collaboration with GoJ Road Safety and Police Officers"*. We understand that this has not taken place. Constable Labey has excused his action by referring to "three road deaths in the Parish on his watch". Two deaths involved one accident on a main road involving high speed and alcohol. The other involved a lady knocked off her bicycle by a man having a stroke. Neither incident has

any relevance to slow moving school traffic in a quiet lane, where no incident has been logged and to use these as a justification is extremely disingenuous.

When traffic is heavy in Rue de la Haye du Puits at school movement times it is impossible to speed. The Residents are used to crawling around the double bend: speed is simply not a factor. It is also relevant to point out that the great majority of the traffic at drop off and pick up times comprises parents themselves. The Residents firmly believe that no credible justification has been made for the “pavement” or indeed for any major safety-induced change.

Since the painting of the virtual pavement the pattern of pedestrian movement remains broadly similar, with many walking in the middle of the road and crossing to the far side of the bend, where ironically they are more visible and safer.

### **Consultation**

It appears that the Parish, some three years after the Report, has taken precipitative and knee-jerk action without adequate consultation. Proper risk assessment has not been made. Neither has the Parish seen fit to consult the Residents at any time. The latter are arguably the best informed about the traffic issue and should have been recognised as stakeholders in the matter. Twice the road has been closed without notice, causing considerable inconvenience. Never have the Residents been asked for their views as to the degree of risk or the best solution. Now, an aesthetic disaster has been visited on them, a hideous trail of bright red paint bordered by a thick white stripe and quite unnecessary white pedestrian logos. This conflicts garishly with the green leafy landscape and is being described repeatedly by parishioners as “vandalism”. The school is closed for long periods during holidays; the Residents have to endure the ugly result 365 days a year.

A further embarrassment to the Parish concerns the fact that the garish red “pavement” has been extended across the entrance to the private Haie du Puits estate (photo 1). The Parish was party in 2015 to a contract whereby land was ceded for the small pavements either side; however, the residents of the estate retain ownership up to the edge of the road and have demanded that this area be reinstated at the earliest opportunity. Again: proper and courteous consultation would have avoided such oversight and unnecessary cost.

### **Colour and cost**

Reaction might have been less strong if the colour had been green, as is normal for such a path. The Roads Committee minutes are sparse in relation to the matter and record no decision as to colour. Constable Labey is on record as admitting that he chose bright red himself, although in different emails he has contradicted himself, once claiming that the Roads Committee had been involved in that decision. We think not (there is no minute to substantiate that) and we ask for confirmation. Constable Labey has attempted to justify the colour by referring to “winter darkness”. In fact, school movements in winter are carried out in daylight hours; and should there be any need to drive at night, car headlights are bright. He suggests that the bright paint will dull down; why not then just use a normal path colour, such as the buff used on the school track? In any event, red universally indicates danger rather than a safety area.

In addition to the broad red strip there are white pedestrian logos (why are these necessary?) and a wide and continuous white line. We understand that, under the Jersey Road Traffic Law, this normally denotes a line not to be crossed by traffic, yet it is impossible to drive along the road without straddling the white line at some point.

The work on the “pavement” required extensive preparatory work in shallow trenching and resurfacing, before the actual painting. The Residents ask again: what is the budgeted and actual cost of this exercise overall? Why has this not been covered in the minutes of the Roads Committee? It is also the case that after recent branchage work the “pavement” by the school has exposed an uneven area which could cause pedestrians to trip (photos 7 and 8). It should be noted that, before branchage time, the lane is even narrower and cars have no option but to crawl and usually stop to give priority to pedestrians.

#### **Emergency access and pollution**

When the paint was being thickly applied there was a strong and pungent smell and the Infrastructure operatives were all wearing heavy duty ventilating masks. Is the paint toxic? If so, might there be a residual danger from the paint and was it noted that the highly sensitive ecological area, the Le Pré Arthur, is very close by?

At school movement times the traffic along Rue de la Haye du Puits is heavy. Occasionally there are log jams with cars queuing back to Rue des Fonds (with consequent pollution). The Residents are resigned to this and have learned not to travel at drop off and pick up times, accepting the considerable inconvenience. The authorities have, it seems, chosen to ignore the other safety aspect: that it would be impossible at those times for emergency vehicles to access any of the homes there. What would happen if there was a fire or a severe medical emergency? Has there been a specific risk assessment about this (if not, why not?) and what is the contingency plan? Does this not offend against the Road Traffic (Jersey) Law, 1956?

#### **Alternative solutions**

The school occupies most of a large block of land and has the advantage of its own internal track. The Residents ask what alternative solutions have been considered. Two have been proposed by the Residents themselves:

- **The school's internal track:** at drop off and pick up times, traffic currently enters from the southern end and exits onto Rue á Don, creating disruption to the main stream of traffic and contingent dangers on the very road where the majority of “near misses” have been recorded. Why not reverse the flow along the track, so that traffic enters from Rue á Don and exits onto Rue de la Haye du Puits and proceeds in front of the school? It could then disperse via La Rue Maraval: either left towards La Rue des Prés or right towards La Grande Route des Sablons.

This avoids the need for the great majority of traffic to use the main part of Rue de la Haye du Puits: hence, no need for a “pavement”. Also, it would avoid traffic exiting directly onto La Rue á Don and the related and identified dangers there. It is

acknowledged that, with its growth, the school has a parking problem, such that staff are parking on the track. However, that is a separate matter and the volume of parental traffic would be the same. If it works one way, it should work the other.

This was not considered in the Report: why not?

- **Pathway from car park to school entrance:** there is an inset at the entrance to Haie du Puits estate where the two short sections of (proper) pavement (ceded to the Parish in 2015) are set back and straddle the entrance to the estate. Pedestrians tend not to use those short sections of pavement but prefer to stay on the road. The pedestrian gate at the bottom of the school track is on the left – the opposite side to the defined pedestrian path along the playing field wire. It is never used and remains locked. Yet the painted “pavement” leads to that gate: why? (See photo 2).
- Between car park entrance and school the remains of the old low granite wall and bank extend beyond the line of the school perimeter, along the very section of narrow road that is critical regarding pedestrian safety. People often walk along the uneven grass bank towards the school entrance; this is a definite safety hazard that appears to have been overlooked. That length of bank could be cut back and a new low wall built. (See photo 3). This would allow for direct pedestrian traffic the whole way from the first section of pavement outside Haie du Puits estate, including those walking to and from the car park, directly to the school entrance. The road itself would remain the same width as now but pedestrians would be kept separate throughout. A few trees would have to be felled (they are replaceable) and there would be a construction cost. However, with the increased size of the school, and if priority is to be given to safety, this would seem to be a justifiable long-term investment.
- **Other painted solutions:** attached photos 4 and 5 show how Trinity school and Les Amis have dealt more sympathetically with the matter of pedestrian safety. They are effective and no-one could object to such lightness of touch.
- **Other suggestions to alleviate pedestrian traffic:** the Report is helpful in many respects. It notes that 94% of the school pupil population resides within cycling distance. It wishes for more walking and, above all, it rightly notes the extremely high incidence of car transport. Car-sharing is suggested. The Residents ask what proactive efforts are being made by both school and the respective authorities to promote these antidotes to the central problem.

## Conclusion

Constable Labey claims that he has received “a lot of support” and “a lot of compliments and congratulatory messages” about the project. That is direct contrast to the plethora of supportive conversations and messages received by the Residents. Words like “horror”, “outrage” and “vandalism” abound. While not doubting the good intentions of the Parish, no-one in our experience has done other than condemn its actions in creating this expensive eyesore. It has been carried out with inadequate consultation and with breath-taking insensitivity. Comments and requests for information have been largely rebuffed. It all displays a lack of thought and research, together with an arrogance that ill-becomes a parish authority.

The Report (at 1.1.1) states that its purpose is to promote *“more active and sustainable school travel patterns, support air quality... and help alleviate localised traffic congestion”*. We respectfully suggest that the impetuous action by the Parish has failed to achieve this. The Residents ask that the Parish engage in urgent further discussion with Infrastructure as well as the school and the Department for Education. In particular, they request that the specific questions and alternative suggestions put forward are discussed and that the Parish report back within reasonable time. In the absence of such a response the Residents will not hesitate to take further action, utilising the general support evident throughout the Parish. They were ignored previously; now is the time to include them as real stakeholders in the matter of road safety. The Residents may be displaying “nimbyism”: however, they are attempting to be proactive in helping the school to improve traffic flow and safety, as well as to avoid an aesthetic disaster. Ultimately, everyone has the same goal. However, it will not be achieved by exclusion and high-handedness.

[REDACTED]

<\*\* June 2025>

<Names>