

London Borough of Enfield

Environment and Climate Action Scrutiny Panel, 14th March 2023

Subject: School Streets

Cabinet Member: Cllr Jewell

Executive Director: Sarah Cary

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an outline and update of the School Streets programme to enable a baseline for discussion at the Environment and Climate Action Scrutiny Panel. No specific lines of enquiry were provided.

Relevance to the Council Plan

2. School Streets can actively contribute towards:
 - Clean and green spaces
 - Strong, healthy, and safe communities
 - Thriving children and young people

Background

3. School Streets create safer environments around schools for children and the community. A 'School Street' is an area transformed into a pedestrian and cycling zone outside of a school. They operate from Monday to Friday during the school term only at set times for drop-off (morning) and pick-up (afternoon). Roads remain open to people walking, scooting, and cycling and those who are exempt from the closure (including residents living in the zone).
4. School Streets are either operated manually by volunteers who place a physical gate or barrier across the road at the closure times alongside designated closure points, or by an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera system. Sometimes other mitigations such as one-way streets are also used to support the scheme.
5. A recent [Transport for London study](#) found that School Streets reduced nitrogen dioxide at drop off time by up to 23%, and 18% of parents reported driving to school less when their child attended a school where there was a School Street.
6. School Streets are outlined as an objective in the [Enfield Healthy Streets Framework](#) as part of 'Activity 2' – making streets safer, reducing road danger and the number of people killed or seriously injured on Enfield's roads.

Main Considerations for the Panel

7. To date the Council has implemented 14 School Streets, with one of those (Bush Hill Park Primary) paused pending design alterations requested by the school. Current operating School Streets are:

School Name	Road	Time
St Monica's Primary	Cannon Road	8.15-9.15am & 2.30-4.00pm
Oakthorpe Primary	Tile Kiln Lane	8.15-9.15am & 2.45-4.00pm
Chase Side Primary	Trinity Street	8.15-9.15am & 2.45-3.45pm
Raynham Primary	Raynham Avenue	8.15-9.15am & 2.45-3.45pm
Meridian Angel Primary	Ladysmith Road	8.15-9.15am & 2.45-3.45pm
De Bohun Primary	Green Road	8.15-9.15am & 2.45-3.45pm
Keys Meadow Primary	Tysoe Avenue	8.15-9.15am & 3.00-3.45pm
George Spicer Primary	Sketty Road	8.30-9.15am & 2.45-3.45pm
Worcester's Primary	Goat Lane	8.15-9.00am & 3.00-3.45pm
Lavender Primary	Lavender Road	8.30-9.00am & 3.00-3.30pm
Kingfisher Hall	The Ride	8.15-9.00am & 2.30-3.30pm
Hazelbury Primary	Westerham Avenue	8.30-9.00am & 3.00-3.45pm
St Paul's Primary	Ringwood Way	8.30-9.00am & 3.15-3.45pm

8. With the exception of one School (St Pauls), all of these School Street projects are now enforced through the use of ANPR. Where volunteer marshals originally supported a number of other projects, schools have been unable to maintain the provision of volunteers. The use of ANPR ensures that a sustainable project can be put in place. As can be seen from the table above, the Council works in partnership with the School to determine the specific times of operation that is relevant to each particular school.
9. Free Permits are available to residents who live within the closure zone and for any businesses who may operate from within the zone. Permits are also available for blue badge holders who need to access the school for work or to assist with pick-up and drop off. Headteachers are also offered a small amount of permits for use at their own discretion. As and when circumstances change, the school can change the vehicles these permits are allocated to by contacting Parking Services.
10. The design at a further 10 Schools has taken place throughout the current FY with full implementation of 8 of these to take place this Spring. Two of the Schools (which form one combined project) have requested that their School Street project be delayed to FY24/25. Supply chain issues with the provision of cameras has caused some delays to the rollout of these projects but this situation is now improving.
11. The Council are currently exploring a further set of schools to be taken forward in FY23/24. Selected schools are likely to fall into two categories;

those that are delivered in FY23/24 and those where the focus is on design and engagement, ready for implementation in FY24/25.

12. To be considered for a School Street a school needs to be engaged in STARS. STARS is the Transport for London accreditation programme that recognises the activities schools are undertaking to champion walking, wheeling, scooting, skating, and cycling. STARS supports pupils' wellbeing, helps to reduce congestion at the school gates and improves road safety and air quality.
13. STARS stands for Sustainable Travel: Active, Responsible and Safe. Approximately half of the primary schools in Enfield are currently engaged in the STARS scheme. There are three levels of accreditation (Gold, Silver and Bronze) that recognise the work schools are doing to encourage pupils, parents, and staff to travel by walking, wheeling, scooting, skating, cycling, parking, and striding, public transport, and other sustainable ways of travelling. Within the Journey & Places team there is an Officer who works closely with the schools to support them with the STARS process.
14. STARS benefits school communities in many ways, including:
 - Improving the mental health and wellbeing of students
 - Supporting incorporating physical activity into daily routines of young people
 - Encouraging sustainable daily journeys as a lifelong habit
 - Reducing congestion and air pollution around the school
15. Schools are then invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) form. This form, completed by the headteacher, sets out the commitment of the school to work in partnership with the Council during both the design and implementation of the School Street.
16. With a school actively engaged in STARS and an EOI submitted, the Council can start to explore early feasibility of a School Street. A School Street will not be possible in all environments, for example busy bus routes, but there are many locations where a School Street can be possible.

Conclusions

17. The Council is making good progress with ambitions to rollout School Streets across the Borough. A number of projects are now active and well established, with a further tranche to be delivered over the coming weeks. The commitment remains, and a further set of School Streets will be delivered in FY23/24 (the number determined by the design and funding), and a further set of schools will see a period of design and engagement to enable a forward plan to be established for delivery in FY24/25.

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