

# School Streets – Overview

Children and Education Scrutiny  
Sub-Committee

21<sup>st</sup> October



# Aims of the Scheme

- Encourage activity, reduce pollution, and help growth, learning and development.
- Promote sustainable travel methods
- Improve road safety at the school gate



Traffic Inducing Traffic



# The First 50 Schools

50 streets programmed for completion by May 2022

(See appendix A for detailed overview )

- 21 complete
- 9 begin construction this year
- Remainder on site next year



# What is a School Street

- Identified via local knowledge and stakeholder engagement.

## Features include:

- An AM/PM motor vehicle restriction aligned to school times
- Measures to encourage sustainable travel
- “Greening” elements

*Our schemes go further than other boroughs which often do not include public realm improvements*



# The Approach



- **Preliminary engagement** - with the Head Teacher to explain concept, understand concerns, process for developing scheme, intended outcomes and engagement.
- **Local data collection** - Site observations to understand traffic conditions and local issues, Traffic volume and speed surveys, collision data and opportunities for active travel
- **Recommendation Report:** Recommendation report for each school outlining issues and traffic calming proposals and sustainable transport measures.
- **Consultation:** With schools and key stakeholders to gain discussion/observations in general including likely limitations, constraints, and design considerations.
- **Consideration for Approval** – Mayor’s Traffic Meeting



# Consultation

- Consultation leaflet sent to properties around school
- Leaflet sent to schools who distribute to parents
- Engagement via council's Consultation Hub and facilitated face to face events where appropriate
- Questionnaire can be posted or completed online
- Results collected, analysed, and presented to Mayor at Traffic Meeting for approval



# Resident Participation

Most resident see benefits of school streets and project aims. However;

- Any scheme that impacts vehicles can be controversial
- Concerns regarding access to properties during restriction times
- Concerns regarding displacement of traffic and loss of parking



# School Participation



- Key role in gathering views and shaping design
- Some schools are more engaged with sustainable travel schemes, e.g. STARS
- Engagement with some schools on active travel remains a barrier
- Covid19 has meant schools struggled with capacity to assist with project with limited engagement methods available





# Example Schemes – John Scurr



The best of London  
in one borough



# St Luke's & CW College



The best of London  
in one borough



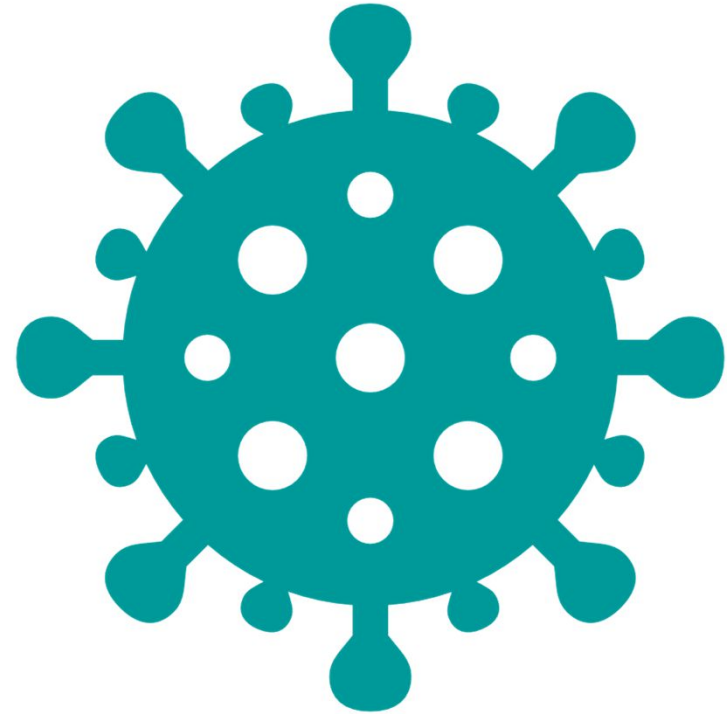
# Interdependencies and Challenges

- Numbers of residents impacted by school street
- Style of school street – public realm improvements required
- Loss of parking / impact on vehicles
- Cost / Time implications to deliver measures (e.g. camera installation)
- How engaged in the process the school is?



# Covid19 Specific Challenges

- Delays to project implementation and engagement with schools due to closure
- Traffic not representative of normal levels
- Changes to how schools' operate entrances
- Potential reduction in priority within schools due to limited capacity



# How Schools Can Support.

- Hold events and meetings on site
- Using school engagement specialists to raise awareness of scheme
- Develop methods to boost access to those that do not engage
- The Head's Consultative?



# Appendices:

- A) Programme Overview
- B) Example of Engagement Material



# Appendix A – Programme Overview



**TOWER HAMLETS**

English Martyrs	Completed schemes	Old Palace	Completed schemes - further consultation	Clara Grant	Consultation complete, in construction phase	St Saviours	Consultation complete, in construction phase
Bluegate Fields	Completed schemes	Cubitt Town	Completed schemes	Arnhem Wharf	Completed schemes	Wellington	Consultation complete, in construction phase
Ben Johnson	Completed schemes	Bonner	Completed schemes	Lawdale	Completed schemes	Our Lady & St Joseph	Consultation complete, issues raised that require further works
Harry Roberts	Completed schemes	St Lukes	Completed schemes - motor vehicle restriction consultation	Bigland (LS)	Consultation complete - within Shadwell LS	Canon Barnet	Engagement / Design Phase
Globe	Completed schemes - further consultation on expanded scheme requested	Canary Wharf College (added)	Completed schemes - motor vehicle restriction consultation	Mowlem (LS)	Consulted complete - within Old Ford LS	Smithy Street (+possibly Redmans)	Engagement / Design Phase
Malmesbury	Completed schemes	Chisenhale (added)	Completed schemes	St Elizabeths Catholic School (LS)	Consulted complete - within Old Ford LS	William Davis	Engagement / Design Phase
Culloden	Completed schemes	Old Ford (LS)	Consultation complete, in construction phase	Phoenix Upper School	Consulted upon schemes, construction	Solebay	Engagement / Design Phase
Elizabeth Selby (LS)	Completed schemes	Harry Gosling	Consultation complete, issues raised that require further works	Woolmore	Consultation complete, issues raised that require further works	Hermitage	Engagement / Design Phase
St Peters (LS)	Schemes currently under construction - zebra crossing etc.	Kobi Nazrul	Consultation complete, in construction phase	Manorfield	Consultation complete, issues raised that require further works	Bangabandu	Engagement / Design Phase
Seven Mills (LS)	Completed schemes	Mayflower	Consultation complete, in construction phase	Stebon	Consultation complete, in construction phase	St Pauls with St Lukes	Engagement / Design Phase
Virginia (LS)	Completed schemes	Bygrove	Consultation complete, in construction phase	Marion Richardson	Consultation complete, in construction phase	St Pauls / Shapla Primary	Engagement / Design Phase
Marner	Completed schemes - bus stop issue still outstanding	Lansbury Lawrence	Consultation complete, in construction phase	Hague	Consultation complete, in construction phase	Cyril Jackson P	Engagement / Design Phase
Columbia (LS)	Schemes currently under construction	Thomas Buxton (LS)	Engagement / Design Phase	Stuart Headlam	Consultation complete, in construction phase		
Cayley	Completed schemes	St Anne's RC (LS)	Engagement / Design Phase	St Edmunds	Consultation complete, in construction phase		
Olga (LS)	Consultation complete, in construction phase	John Scurr	Completed schemes	Harbinger	Consultation complete, in construction phase		



# Appendix B - Example of Engagement Material



## School Streets



### What are School Streets?

School streets are pioneering schemes to transform roads outside schools, so that pedestrians and cyclists can use them safely at school start and finish times. The Mayor of Tower Hamlets has an aspiration to develop 50 School Streets by 2022. We want to create areas where children can safely walk or wheel to and from school. School streets aim to encourage activity, reduce pollution and help growth, learning and development.

Each school will have different proposals, but all will feature greenery to improve air quality and the environment for everyone. Staff, residents and businesses will still be able to access the area while making it safer and quieter for the school and the community.

### Why do we need School Streets?

Improve road safety Unfortunately, children are some of the most vulnerable road users. We will look at the design of the roads and pavements to make it as safe as possible for children on the way to school. Find out what's happening at your school at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schoolstreets](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schoolstreets)

Protect children from pollution Harmful air pollution affects the health and wellbeing of children and most schools in Tower Hamlets are exposed to motor vehicle traffic fumes. Children's lung capacity can be reduced by breathing toxic air which can affect all organs in their body and their long-term health. Green walls, trees and gardens can absorb noise and pollution with some roads outside schools closed to traffic at drop-off and pick-up times. Find out more about [our Breathe Clean campaign](#).

Encourage active travel Busy roads can make it feel unsafe to walk and cycle. We can widen pavements, introduce crossings and calm traffic to allow more children to safely walk, scoot and cycle. Where possible, schools can provide space for storing bikes and scooters safely. Find out more on [The Tower Hamlets website](#).

### Have your say

We'd love to hear your views on the third phase of School Streets proposals:

- Clara Gant Primary School
- Harbinger Primary School
- Hague Primary School
- Manorfields Primary School
- Our Lady and St. Joseph Catholic Primary School
- St. Edmund's Roman Catholic Primary School
- Stebon and St. Paul's Way Primary School
- Stewart Headam Primary School
- Wallington Primary School
- Woolmore Primary School

The above engagement closes at midnight on **Sunday 26 July 2021**

- Marion Richards Primary School
- St. Saviour's Primary School

The above engagement closes at midnight on **Wednesday 28 July 2021**

If you require another format of any plan or explanation of the design proposals, e-mail [schoolstreets@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:schoolstreets@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

### The first phase of School Streets to be implemented in autumn 2020 included:

- Ben Jonson Primary and Harry Roberts Nursery, Stepney Green – road closures to motor vehicles (except residents) at drop-off and pick-up times
- Blue Gate Fields Junior, Shadwell – new zebra crossing
- Elizabeth Selby Infants and Lewisham Junior, Bethnal Green – Old Bethnal Green Road filters to reduce through-traffic; changes in Poland Street outside school gates to follow
- English Martyrs Primary, Whitechapel – Improved pavements, one-way system and road closures to motor vehicles (except residents) at drop-off and pick-up times
- Grace Town Primary, Bethnal Green – road closures to motor vehicles (except residents) at drop-off and pick-up times
- Marmesbury Primary, Bow – road closures to motor vehicles (except residents) at drop-off and pick-up times

Your feedback will help us reach a decision on whether to proceed with these proposals. The results will be published here and on [The Tower Hamlets School Streets page](#).

Should the Council proceed with these proposals, residents, businesses and schools will receive a letter to inform them about the start date of the scheme and [registering a vehicle for exemption](#). Public notices advising of the changes will be displayed on street.

Due to high levels of consultation responses, we will not be able to individually respond to all replies.

The Council will use the information you provide for the purpose of this proposal. We will not share the information with other Council departments or external bodies. We will always process your information in accordance with the law.

For more information on the basis on which we process, use and store your information, please refer to [our Privacy Policy](#).

Page last updated 04 August 2021, 13:30

### Key Dates

Phase 1 Implementation  
September – October 2020

Phase 2 consultations  
November – December 2020

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### How will the School Street work?

Finnis Street (between Three Colts Lane to Wilmot Street) would be made into a pedestrian and cycle only zone between 8.15am-9.15am and 3.00pm-4.00pm on school days.

- Access for residents & businesses of those streets, school staff, blue badge users and SEND pupils will be allowed if the vehicle is registered for an exemption, which can be requested free of charge using a form online.
- Other vehicles driven by visitors, parents and delivery vehicles will not be permitted to enter the zone while in operation.
- Vehicles not registered within the restricted streets can leave during operational hours but cannot return between 8.15am-9.15am and 3.00pm-4.00pm on school days.
- The zones will be enforced by cameras and vehicles not exempted entering will be automatically issued a penalty charge notice.
- We are also introducing green walls, clean air gardens and tree planting, in and around the school.

### Have your say

Your views are important to us. We want everyone who lives, works and studies in the area to have their say.

Have your say by filling in the survey:  
Online via: [talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schoolstreets](http://talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schoolstreets)  
Hard copy and send via post with the freepost label supplied.

Please provide your feedback by midnight on Sunday 1 August 2021.

If you have any questions about the plans or require details in another format or language, email or write to us at:

[schoolstreets@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:schoolstreets@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

School Streets Engagement Team  
Project Centre Ltd  
Unit 2 Holford Yard  
London WC1X 9HD

What happens next?

If approved, a trial of the restrictions will run for 18 months. New School Streets are controlled by experimental Traffic Regulation Orders which allow us to trial the scheme, to see how well it works. A decision on whether to make the scheme permanent will be made following feedback and site assessments during these 18 months. This gives residents, parents and pupils the chance to help us improve the way they work. After six months we ask parents, residents and other interested stakeholders to complete a short online survey to tell us how they think the School Street is working. The responses are then analysed and inform our decision on whether to keep the School Street, either as it is or in a modified form. Due to high levels of consultation responses, we will not be able to individually respond to all replies.

## MAYOR OF TOWER HAMLETS

# SCHOOL STREETS

## HAGUE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### What are School Streets?

School streets are pioneering schemes to transform roads outside schools, so that pedestrians and cyclists can use them safely at school start and finish times. The Mayor of Tower Hamlets has an aspiration to develop 50 School Streets by 2022.

We want to create areas where children can safely walk or wheel to and from school. School streets aim to encourage activity, reduce pollution and help growth, learning and development. Each school will have different proposals, but all will aim to reduce air pollution at the school gates. Staff, residents and businesses will still be able to access the area while making it safer and quieter for the school and the community.

### Why do we need School Streets?

To improve road safety - Unfortunately, children are some of the most vulnerable road users. As part of the School Street we look at the design of the roads and pavements to make it as safe as possible for children on the way to and from school. To protect children from pollution - Harmful air pollution affects the health and well-being of children. Children's lung capacity can be reduced by breathing toxic air which can affect all organs in their body and their long term health. Find out more at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/breatheclean](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/breatheclean).

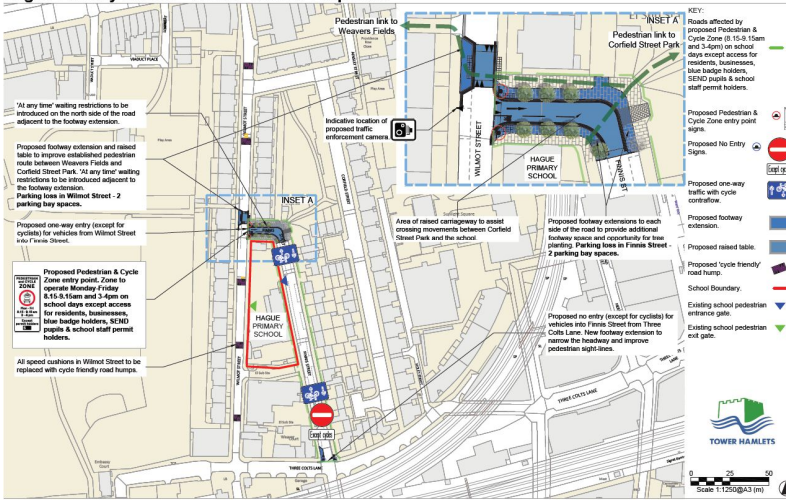
To encourage active travel - Busy roads can make it feel unsafe to walk and cycle. We can widen pavements, introduce crossings and calm traffic to allow more children to safely walk, scoot and cycle. Where possible, schools can provide space for storing bikes and scooters safely. Find out more at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/cycling).

### What are we doing?

- A plan is enclosed outlining the proposals. Changes could include:
  - Restricting traffic at the start and end of school days Finnis Street
  - 'Cycle friendly' road humps and calm traffic speeds
  - Raised pedestrian crossing on Wilmot and Finnis Street
  - Tree planting to offer shelter and extra greenery

(cont. on page 4)

## Hague Primary School - School Streets Proposals



## Hague Primary School

### Tell us what you think

Please fill in your details and any comments and return this form to the school reception. Alternatively, you can fold the document, seal it and post it to us using the free post address on the back.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 First line of address (door number and road name): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are you a...? (Please tick the one that applies)

<input type="checkbox"/> Parent / guardian of child who attends the school	<input type="checkbox"/> Local resident
<input type="checkbox"/> Person who works in the area	<input type="checkbox"/> Business owner
Other (please state) _____	

2. If you are a parent, pupil or staff, how do you predominately travel to school?

<input type="checkbox"/> Walk	<input type="checkbox"/> Cycle
<input type="checkbox"/> Car	<input type="checkbox"/> Taxi
<input type="checkbox"/> Public transport	

3. Do you agree or disagree with the School Street proposal to make Finnis Street (between Wilmot Street and Three Colts Lane) a pedestrian and cycle only zone between 8.15am-9.15am and 3.00pm-4.00pm on school days?

Agree  Disagree  Don't know

4. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to make Finnis Street one-way (except cycles) southbound on Wilmot Street?

Agree  Disagree  Don't know

5. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of a rain garden and general greening proposals around the school?

Agree  Disagree  Don't know

7. If this proposal is implemented, would it encourage you to walk or cycle to school more?

Yes  No  Don't know

Your Comments

