

Appendix E – Thameside Primary School - Summary of Consultation Responses

1.0 Introduction

The following documents are included in this Appendix:

- A Letter sent by the School to residents
- Responses in support of a School Street
- Responses in objection of a School Street

Thameside Primary School

Harley Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 8DB
Tel: (0118) 937 5551
E-mail: sbm@thameside.reading.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S Greenaway
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs I Burton
Website: www.thameside.reading.sch.uk

To: Resident

Date: 28th September 2020

Name of School: Thameside Primary School

Address: Harley Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 8DB

My tel. no: 0118 9375551

My e-mail: sbm@thameside.reading.sch.uk

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: School Streets Closure Order

I am writing to inform you that I am in the process of applying for a Traffic Management Order for a School Streets Closure on the following road(s):

Harley Road

This closure Order is subject to approval from Reading Borough Council.

The closures would only take place during term times at the following times:

Day of the week	AM School Street Time	PM School Street Time
Monday	08:40 to 09:00	15:05 to 15:30
Tuesday	08:40 to 09:00	15:05 to 15:30
Wednesday	08:40 to 09:00	15:05 to 15:30
Thursday	08:40 to 09:00	15:05 to 15:30
Friday	08:40 to 09:00	15:05 to 15:30

The road will be fully closed to through traffic and the end of Harley Road joining Wolsey Road will be marshalled. Residents will be allowed full access but are requested to drive at walking speed when within the closure area. It is not necessary to move parked vehicles from the street. School Streets will be under adult supervision and access will be maintained for emergency services at all times in all parts of the street.

Please direct any comments, queries or objections regarding this proposal to me in the first instance. If I cannot resolve your concern, I will refer it to Reading Borough Council's School Streets scheme.

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Guidance for drivers during School Streets

1. Drivers must wait until children and adults have been cleared from the street by marshals.
2. A marshal will inform a driver when they can move off.
3. A marshal will escort vehicles in and out - walking in front of the vehicles. They must drive at a walking pace a maximum of 5mph.
4. Vehicles/Drivers must drive with due care and attention at all times, with special consideration that there are children playing in the street.
5. Visitors/delivery drivers have the same obligations. It is your duty as a resident within the street to inform anyone leaving your property of their obligations so that they don't just drive off without first informing a marshal and allowing children to be cleared from street etc.
6. Through drivers are not permitted access to the street while a School Streets is happening.



School Streets Agreement Form

Name of street(s): Harley Road

Resident Name:.....

House/Property Number:.....

☒ I **object** to the proposed closure order in Harley Road for the following reasons.....
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.....
.
.....

☐ I **consent** to the proposed closure order in Harley Road for the following reasons.....
.
.....
.
.....

Yours faithfully,

V. Lucas

Vicki Lucas, School Business Manager

Who are you? - Who are you	Who are you? - Other (please specify)	Do you support the School Street proposal?	Any further comments - Comments
			<p>Access to Thameside Primary School is busy not only in Harley Road but also in the entrance via Elliotts Way. Every morning, dozens of parents' cars go into Elliotts Way to drop their children at school. Due to the lack of parking spaces, parents park in neighbour's private property or, in most cases, simply stop their car in the road or the footpath. In summary, traffic levels at Elliotts Way during those peak times are also notably high and potentially dangerous for children and neighbours.</p> <p>I think the proposal to close Harley Road to traffic during peak times must be extended to Elliotts Way, and the "guidance for drivers during School Streets" must apply in that street as well. Otherwise traffic problems in the area will only be partially addressed.</p>
Resident		Somewhat	
Parent/carer		Yes	<p>It would be good to stop drivers, a lot of whom are selfish in their behaviour when dropping off / picking up their children - leaving engine running, parking in the keep clear lines, not giving children a chance to cross the road, etc - from going down Harley Road and allowing parents and children to get into school safely. And with social distancing requirements, we need space in the road in which to wait for our children to come out of school.</p> <p>I believe this is a great idea because parents have been asked and asked to park in near by car parks but do not take any notice. The gates in Harley road are where the smallest children go in and out and with cars constantly moving up and down the road it makes it very dangerous for them. The closure of the road would also help with social distancing at the moment, as parents would be able to take advantage of the whole space. I would only ask that this could be done at the other entrance in Elliott's way as well where cars are as much of a problem - especially when the weather is bad!</p>
Parent/carer		Yes	
Parent/carer		Yes	
Parent/carer		Yes	<p>Many cars park on pavements with little concern for the pedestrian right of way currently. Indeed it is frequently becoming the case that pedestrians are forced to give way to the cars during manoeuvres on the pavements. Engines are frequently left on while cars are parked.</p> <p>It is very difficult to allow children to scoot or cycle ahead due to the cars coming and going, on and off the pavements. Crossing is also hazardous.</p> <p>I welcome the School Street proposal.</p>
Parent/carer		Yes	
Parent/carer		Yes	<p>I'm a resident of Wolsey Road. I support the closure in theory. You say the road will be closed to 'through traffic'? There is no through traffic, Harley Road is a dead end at the school. Presumably you mean parents won't be able to turn into Harley Road to drop their children off? If so where are they going to park? There is nowhere to park on Wolsey Road and the congestion in the mornings and afternoons with the school traffic is bad enough as it is, with cars sometimes backing up onto Gosbrook Road as two cars can't pass on Wolsey Road. Also the vans from Rabbits Vehicle Hire go up and down and the big delivery lorries to Iceland use Wolsey Road. Although it's sensible to protect the children from traffic I'm not sure how it would work without causing more traffic chaos.</p>
Resident		Somewhat	
Parent/carer		Yes	
Parent/carer		Yes	
Parent/carer		Yes	<p>Excellent plan, the road often feels quite hazardous with large vehicles reversing or mounting the kerb.</p>
Parent/carer		Yes	
Parent/carer		Yes	
Parent/carer		Yes	<p>It is so so dangerous having a reception age child when cars are driving down Harley road and parking all over the place</p> <p>My 4 year old has almost been hit twice, once by a car reversing straight into her queue</p> <p>Something needs to be done to break the habit of parents driving onto this road to protect the safety of children. A local Waitrose is close enough to park for free and walk to school should parents absolutely need to drive.</p> <p>Well overdue. Shouldn't need to go to consultation it should be common sense. Some parents are clearly too selfish to have any concerns about anyone but themselves. Having seen too many near misses from bad parking opposite the school, this proposal is necessary and it is difficult to understand what reasons could be given to oppose such a move.</p>
Parent/carer		Yes	
Parent/carer		Yes	
Parent/carer		Yes	<p>There have been so many almost accidents. Drivers do not consider pedestrians or children other than theirs.</p> <p>It would be great to implement these plans to ensure the safety of children, parents/carers and teachers.</p> <p>Thameside has 2 entrances. Both seem equally well used for drop off/collection. Knock. Close Harley Rd to parents puts more pressure on Elliotts Way which today was full of cars & parents. Any overflow will go to Patrick Rd, where I live, which already has parents from The Heights using the road to park. I note the school has to say where parents can park.</p> <p>Good luck with that as The Heights parents just ignore it.</p>
			<p>The reasons given for Harley Rd becoming a school street could equally apply to Elliotts Way.</p>
Resident		Somewhat	<p>Most children who go to Thameside appear to live locally so see no need to drive them to school. Perhaps you should educate the parents.</p>
Parent/carer		Yes	<p>There is plenty of local parking only a couple of minutes walk away. No need to park so close to the school and the careless speeding past the school by selfish parents is shocking.</p> <p>Too many people drive their kids to school that are living in walking distance. The road and paths are small so social distancing is made extremely hard as cars insist on driving down the road and parents/children are put at risk. From a safety aspect of children and parents the road should close for safe arrivals and departures from the school.</p>
Parent/carer		Yes	
Parent/carer		Yes	
Resident		Yes	<p>I am a parent at the nearby Heights school and walk past Thameside school twice a day with a 5 year old and a buggy. The current situation is dangerous and frustrating. Currently many parents park illegally, block dropped kerbs, perform 3 point turns, block pavements with car doors and park on corners making crossing very dangerous. On one occasion a barrier stopped a car reversing into my 1 year old in his buggy as a driver performing a 3 point turn in the zig zag area reversed over the pavement. Drivers also sit in their cars with the engines running waiting for school to open filling the pavements with fumes.</p>
Resident		Yes	<p>1 An unnecessary restriction on the residents of Bristow Court. The road is a cut-de sac.</p> <p>2 A crowding of parent's cars in Wolsey Road. Of course the same parents will insist on transporting their children by car!</p> <p>3 A misconception for impressionable children that roads are 'safe'.</p>
			<p>Please consider my arguments carefully,</p>
Resident		Yes	<p>Safety is a priority</p>
Resident		Yes	<p>Vehicles park in Bristow Court parking spaces more than once my family or friends have had to leave as all our parking spaces are full.</p>
Resident		Yes	<p>Far too much traffic.</p>
Resident		Yes	<p>Because it saves all the chaos of parents parking anywhere they like.</p>
Resident		Yes	<p>Less traffic at peak times and hopefully resulting in parents not parking in Bristow Court so that residents can park.</p>
Resident		Yes	<p>For the safety of children and residents in Bristow Court</p>

Who are you? - Who are you? - Who are	Who are you? - Other	Do you support the	Any further comments - Comments
			<p>I am completely against this proposal in its current form. It is ill thought out because of the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are two roads (Harley road and Elliotts way) that parents drop off and pick their children from Thameside Primary school. Therefore by closing ONLY harley road to parents/carers, you will cause them all to drive and park down Elliotts way. 2. The school streets leaflet states one of the schemes purposes is to reduce traffic congestion. However closing harley road, will increase congestion to Elliotts way, so you are not making any positive difference. 3. Elliotts way has many more residents houses compared to Harley road and so moving traffic away from Harley road into Elliotts way will negatively affect Elliotts way residents (houses and flats) by blocking up the road and blocking the residents driveways and parking spaces. 4. If you are trying to reduce the number of parents driving their kids to and from school, closing only one road will not work. You should be closing BOTH roads - otherwise parents driving will simply move to Elliotts way. 5. Available public road parking will be reduced because you wont allow new people to park in harley road during closure times. This is bad as their is already a lack of on street parking in the area. 6. Children safety when walking to school is more than just the road outside school: Your schemes wording seems to suggest that kids will be in the road (as you mention marshalls having to clear them when cars are coming). Instead of teaching children that they can walk in the road, you should be teaching them the green cross code and thus road safety. Especially as the walk to school involves walking down the busy Gosbrook road. <p>Overall, I feel that closing only Harley road is ill thought out and will have negative repercussions</p> <p>What you should do instead:</p> <p>You should either drop this street closure proposal completely or amend this street closure application to cover closing BOTH Elliotts way and Harley road so that parents have no way to continue driving their kids to school.</p> <p>You should also Encourage your pupils parents to use bicycle grants so they can ride to school with their kids (uk gov has many bike schemes).</p> <p>You should not not go through with a scheme that only closes Harley road.</p>
Resident		No	<p>I am living in Elliotts way, opposite the school. I am not able to move and take my kids to their school because of parents parking in front of my drive way. if you close Harley road, the load on our way will be higher. I need a commitment from the school to manage the traffic and people parking in appropriate places if the school is going to close Harley road!</p>
Resident		No	<p>Daughter has autism and on days when she is having a difficult day (quite often) we need to dash in, drop her at the door and dash home in time to start work. A road closure would delay this. There is plenty of pavement space for kids to safely access the school entrance.</p>
Parent/cai		No	<p>Rather than help our kids understand street safety the proposal is to remove/reduce all of the danger instead. A great life lesson.</p> <p>In a practical sense rather than moral, given it is inevitable that this will be granted as a minimum you need to have the street marshal ONLY responsible for the residents, not helping kids to the school where parents are too lazy, or talking to the parents etc, if you are going to limit movement for 1½ hours each day outside of someones house then you need to commit to been absolutely attentive to the issue</p>
Resident		No	<p>Closing these roads, will only increase congestion and parking issues in other roads and won't help parents who cannot walk their kids to School like disabled parents/parents living long distances.</p>
Resident Other		No	<p>I live on Elliotts Way which is the next road along from Harley Road. My concern is that with Harley Road being closed to the public during theses times will overflow the surrounding roads with traffic. As it currently stands Elliotts Way is the other entrance for the school and is already overwhelmed with traffic and parents lining up outside my house to collect their children. I feel that with one of the roads being less accessible and controlled by the school will result in more parents parking and trying to access Elliotts Way. This makes it difficult for me leaving for work in the morning as the parents park behind parked cars along the road. With more children using this entrance will also mean more litter being left on my front garden which is already annoying and children running freely through the residents gardens as some parents don't keep their children close by when lining up outside.</p> <p>I don't think closing the road will help with traffic going into Caversham either. At 3:15pm it can take 20 minutes to get through the traffic. More restrictions will mean more traffic left out on the main road too.</p>
Resident		No	<p>The proposal as it stands does not solve the problem of traffic around the school. It will merely push it onto other streets, like Elliotts Way. There is no easy solution but we somehow have to stop parents bringing their children to school by car!</p>
Resident		No	