SCHOOL STREET - HILLCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

February 2022



As you are aware, to improve safety, active travel and air quality, the Council implemented a school street in September 2020, which restricts motorised access in to the restricted roads between the hours of 8.00 - 9.15 am & 2.30 - 4.00 pm, Monday - Friday during school term time only. Residents in the affected section of the road can gain vehicular access subject to registering for an exemption. *Please note that the contravention is against entering during these times, but drivers can leave at any time.*

The scheme was implemented under an Experimental Order. The statutory consultation ended on 31st July 2021. All feedback have been considered and a final decision has been made to make the scheme permanent.

We would like to thank all those who responded to the statutory consultation and all the affected residents. The report detailing the statutory consultation and the Cabinet Member decision can be viewed on the Council's website www.merton.gov.uk/schoolstreets

It is appreciated that there may be some inconvenience associated with the scheme, however, it is considered that the benefits of the scheme outweigh some of the inconveniences some residents / motorists may experience and that school streets in conjunction with other initiatives will result in an overall change in behaviour and attitude toward the use of a motorised vehicle.

The Council has noted some of the comments regarding the exemption process and the signage. Now that the scheme has been made permanent, additional advisory signs will be erected where considered necessary and some advisory signs may be changed to pictorial signs (similar to what is shown on the plan); and a *frequently asked question* leaflet is provided with this newsletter. It is also available on the website.

Proposed changes to the restricted period

To be in line with the schools' hours and to ensure the School street remains effective, it has been agreed to change the hours to 8.00 – 9.15 am & 2.30 – 3.30 pm Monday – Friday school term time only.

Starting 3rd March 2022, the Council will be undertaking a statutory consultation to facilitate this proposed change in the hours of operation. Please see plan overleaf.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

A Notice of the Council's intention to introduce the new operational hours for the school street will be published in a local newspaper (Wimbledon and Wandsworth Times) and the London Gazette. Notices will also be posted on lamp columns in the vicinity.

Representations against the proposals described in this Notice must be made in writing by emailing trafficandhighways@merton.gov.uk or write to Environment & Regeneration Department, Future Merton, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX no later than 25th March 2022. Please quote reference ES/SS/2022/Hillcross. It is essential that your full name and postal address are provided within your representation, otherwise your representation may not be considered.

Objections must relate only to the elements of the proposal that are subject to this statutory consultation (i.e. change in the hours). The Council is required to give weight to the nature and content of your representation and not necessarily the quantity. Your reasons are therefore important.

All representations along with officers' comments and recommendations will be presented in a report to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and Climate Emergency. Please note that a response to any representation received will <u>not</u> be made until a final decision is made by the Cabinet Member.

All available information and updates are available on the Council's website www.merton.gov.uk/schoolstreets

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