

Draft press release

### **Consultation launched on car-free streets to make the school-run safer**

Residents' are being asked to have their say on plans to introduce safer streets around schools in Havering from October.

The new School Streets scheme would introduce pedestrian areas around 12 of the borough's schools at set times of the day in a bid to reduce traffic and improve air quality.

Instead, parents and pupils would be encouraged to leave their cars at home and walk or cycle to school, where possible.

The scheme, which would be run for the first time in the borough, is part of the School Streets initiative by Transport for London (TfL) to convert the area outside schools to walking and cycling only. TfL has provided £220,000 to fund the project and if additional money is approved, a further 47 Havering schools could also have School Streets.

Councillor Osman Dervish, Havering's Cabinet Member for the Environment, said:

"We want to see an end to cars causing pollution and safety issues in streets around the school gates. Instead, we want to encourage children and parents to walk or cycle to school to help improve safety and congestion outside schools.

"The scheme will also help to reduce pollution caused from engines running and help improve the community's overall health and wellbeing.

"We really want to hear from residents – so please complete the questionnaire to help us make the best decisions to ensure a safer school-run."

The scheme will also help with new plans in place for social distancing, allowing all pupils to return safely to schools in the autumn.

Although parents won't be able to use their cars, residents living in the affected streets will still be able to access the roads and be able to register for an exemption to the scheme so they aren't at risk of a penalty.

However, anyone else trying to access the road during the restricted times, which could be up to an hour and a half in the morning and again in the afternoon, will be subject to a fine.

To ensure that parents comply with the new scheme, signposts would be put in place and schools would have a number of cameras to capture anyone breaking the new rules. The scheme would replace the existing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) project around four schools, which has now expired and is no longer enforceable. PSPOs were also a more costly scheme to run.

If given the go-ahead, School Streets would initially run for nine months and a decision on whether the scheme would become permanent will be made following the trial.

The schools included in phase 1 of the Havering Schools Streets scheme are:

Engayne

Parsonage Farm

James Oglethorpe

Harrow Lodge

Hylands

Oasis Pinewood

Drapers Academy/Drapers Pyrgo/Drapers Maylands/Lime Academy

Branfil

Squirrels Heath Infant and Junior

Concordia Academy

Mead

Clockhouse

Residents can have their say by completing the consultation online: [\[Add consultation link\]](#)