

Committee: Cabinet Member Report

Date: 14 December 2021

Agenda item: N/A

Wards: Figge's Marsh

Subject: School Streets – EMTO results- St Mark's Primary School

Lead officer: Chris Lee, Director of Environment & Regeneration.

Lead member: Councillor Martin Whelton, Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and the Climate Emergency

Forward Plan reference number: N/A

Contact Officer: Mitra Dubet, email: mitra.dubet@merton.gov.uk

Recommendations:

That the Cabinet Member considers the issues detailed in this report and:

- A) Notes the results of the Experimental Traffic Management Order used to implement the School Street and its associated restrictions as shown below and on plan in Appendix 1.

| School | Restricted Roads | Restricted periods Mon-Fri Term times only |
|------------------|--|--|
| St Marks Primary | St Marks road (between St Mark's Rd & Armfield Crescent) Chalkley Close | 8.00 – 9.15am 2.45 – 4.00pm |

- B) To consider all the representations received as set out in appendix 2 and agrees to proceed with making the existing Experimental Traffic Management permanent.
- C) Agrees to the undertaking of a statutory consultation to change the hours of operation to 8.15– 09.00am and 2.45 – 3.30pm Mon-Fri term times only (to reflect the schools' new hours).
- D) Agrees to exercise his discretion not to hold a public inquiry on the consultation process.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details the result of the Experimental Traffic Management Order used to introduce the School Street restrictions in September 2020.
- 1.2 It seeks approval to proceed with making the Experimental Traffic Management Order (ETMO) permanent and retain the School Street. This will ensure that the objectives associated with school streets are met and retained.
- 1.4 This report also seeks approval to undertake a statutory consultation to change the hours of operation to 8.15– 09.00am and 2.45 – 3.30pm Mon-Fri term times only.

2.0 DETAILS

- 2.1 As part of the Council's objective to reduce congestion, pollution, collisions, risk and provide a safe environment within the vicinity of schools, the Council has a rolling road safety and accessibility programme. Measures that are often implemented include 'school keep clear' zig-zag road markings to prevent drivers parking close to the school gates and to improve sightlines; 20mph speed limits with accompanying traffic calming measures and road safety education. These measures have been very successful in most areas, as there has been an improvement in perception of safety with a reduction in risk of injury. Although these measures have been successful in ensuring access and safety, the level of congestion, risk and air quality outside the schools remain a concern. The contributing factor is the high localised volume of vehicular traffic and obstructive parking within the vicinity of schools often generated by parents / carers of pupils attending the school.

Air Quality

- 2.2 To assess the level of air quality around schools, in January 2017 the Mayor of London commissioned an assessment of air quality outside 50 London schools. A report was published in May 2018 (the Mayor of London on School Air Quality Programme) detailing its findings of unacceptable levels of air quality during the school opening and closing periods of the day. One of the contributing factor to this poor air quality within London is road transport, of which the Mayor of London has introduced a series of measures to improve the air quality especially around schools, however this still remains a concern. It is considered that without significant intervention, as the Capital grows rapidly with increasing congestion, adverse health and safety implications are set to continue.
- 2.3 The Mayor's Air Quality report also identified that school travel in some areas often does not contribute substantially to local emissions, as many walk, scoot, cycle or travel by public transport, with much of the road transport emissions emanating from the nearby busy main roads. However, seeking to manage and reduce school related car travel still has an important role to play. Cars picking up and dropping off children near the school gates result in a concentration of emissions amongst larger numbers of children, worsening exposure including the increase in risk of collisions. The recommendations also often focus on delivering broader improvements to the environment around the schools for walking and cycling, and the promotion of sustainable transport including footway widening, kerb build-outs, improved crossing facilities on desire lines and traffic calming.
- 2.4 The Mayor's Air Quality report highlights that without significant intervention, as the capital grows rapidly with increasing congestion, the air quality levels are forecast to rise considerably, which will impact on adverse health and safety implications. Health implications include triggering or exacerbating chronic diseases such as asthma, hearth attack, bronchitis and other respiratory problems.
- 2.5 Recommendations in the Mayor's report is for local authorities to try and minimise the level of pollution outside schools by introducing measures to minimise vehicular traffic outside school gates. Due to the pandemic, since May 2020, all local authorities have been encouraged to expedite such improvements.
- 2.6 In addition to the above, in response to a green recovery, DfT / TfL provided funding (subject to a bid process) for boroughs to consider, consult and implement School Streets so as to reduce congestion, remove the obstructive parking that is often associated with schools; promote active and sustainable modes of travel; improve safety and air quality particularly outside schools. Further information is available on the Council's website www.merton.gov.uk/schoolstreets
- 2.7 During tranche 1 of the funding process, the Council was successful in its bid to DfT/TfL in securing funding to design and implement a number of school streets throughout the borough. However, due

to extremely tight deadlines set by TfL/DfT, the programme was introduced under an Experimental Order. As per legislation, the Council does need to make a decision no later than 18th month of the ETMO coming in to effect.

2.8 As part of Merton’s commitment, a report dated 3rd August 2020 titled School Streets–Restricted Vehicular Access -Experimental Traffic Management was submitted to the Cabinet Member for approval to implement a number of school streets including Date Valley. Cabinet Member decision was made to implement the school street under an Experimental Order.

2.9 Although it is normal practice to undertake before and after surveys that can be used for an impact assessment, particularly on the neighbouring roads, due to the pandemic / lock down and a general change in traffic pattern and behaviour, any survey at the time would not have yielded a true reflection.

3.0 SCHEME

3.1 To achieve a number of objectives such as improving safety and air quality and encourage active travel, the Council introduced a school street that affects St Marks Road (between St Mark’s Rd & Armfield Crescent) and Chalkley Close. The school street restricts entry of motorised traffic during specific times based on schools’ starting and finishing times. The restrictions only apply during school term periods.

| School | Restricted Roads | Restricted periods Mon-Fri Term times only |
|------------------|--|--|
| St Marks Primary | St Marks Road (between St Mark’s Rd & Armfield Crescent) Chalkley Close | 8.00 – 9.15am 2.45 – 4.00pm |

3.2 Initially the Council intended to use a default period of 08.15 - 09.15am and 15.00-16.00hrs. However, the restricted hours were based on the schools’ then adopted opening / closing hours. Being mindful of the fact that parents often arrive earlier than the starting and finishing times, it was considered necessary to extend the initial proposed hours by 15+ minutes. However, since then, feedback and observations have revealed that across the board many parents are arriving just prior to the restricted times.

3.3 During these periods, the roads are predominately a ‘pedestrian and cycle only’ zone. Residents who live in the affected roads are allowed vehicular access as are teachers and those with special needs children who need to be driven to school. This is via an on-line exemption process. Others who may also qualify for an exemption can register with the Council; exemptions are subject to meeting the appropriate criteria. Location plan and exemption catchment area is attached as appendix 1.

4. CONSULTATION

Statutory Consultation

4.1 Due to extremely tight deadlines set by TfL/DfT, the programme was introduced under an Experimental Order. This type of Order enables the implementation of a scheme during the statutory consultation stage. An Experimental Order allows the restrictions and the Order to be in place for a maximum of 18 months before a final decision is made. Anyone can make a representation within the first six months (the statutory/formal consultation period) of the Experimental Order coming into force. The EMTO allowed the Council to meet its extremely tight deadlines but more importantly, it enabled the school, residents and other road users to experience the restrictions, thereby allowing them to make an informed decision prior to responding to the

consultation. It also allows the Council to make minor adjustments. Consultees had in excess of 6 months to respond to the consultation and residents were encouraged to allow sufficient time to experience the scheme before making a representation.

- 4.2 The consultation began on 29th September 2020 and concluded on 31st July 2021. Newsletters were delivered to all those properties directly affected (see plan in appendix 1). The newsletter detailed the consultation process; the proposed measures and a location plan. A copy of the newsletter with the plan is attached in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 Residents were encouraged to submit their feedback on the Council's website using specific on-line feedback link. All available information was also posted on the website. [Introducing new school streets 2020 \(merton.gov.uk\)](#). Street notices were erected on lamp columns and published in the local papers and the London Gazette.
- 4.3.1 In terms of publicising the school streets programme there was an article on School Streets in My Merton magazine [the Winter 2020 edition](#). This copy was distributed to all households in Merton from 19 November 2020. There was also a news article about it in [the Spring 2021 edition](#) which was published on 25 March 2021.
- 4.3.2 The school was provided with a banner to be attached to the school gate. The banner set out the details of the restrictions and affected roads. The school was also asked to inform and remind parents of the restrictions.
- 4.4 The statutory consultation resulted in a total of 11 representations only one of which (an objection) is from within the restricted roads. The remaining 10 representations are from outside the newsletter postal area, of which 3 are in support and 7 objections. All the representations are detailed in appendix 2.
- 4.5 One of the objective is to deter car trips for 'the school run', which is a major source of congestion and poor air quality outside schools as well as on route to and from schools. In the past the Council has attempted to address school related traffic and parking issues through School's travel plan, Road safety education and parking management. However, it has become very clear that a more stringent action is required to change the behaviour of parents and motorists in general. A school street can be an effective method of bringing about this change.
- 4.6 Due to the pandemic and various guidelines, at the time of the implementation of the scheme, many schools had to establish some form of staggered hours, which had to be accommodated within the restrictions. However, the school has advised the Council of its new hours and if the scheme is made permanent, a statutory consultation will be undertaken to reflect the new school hours. The hours will allow for additional minutes to capture the many parents who arrive early particularly during afternoon pick up periods.
- 4.7 The legal signs plus advance signs have been in place since Sept / Oct 2020 and are clearly visible. The signs at the entrance to the restricted roads fully comply with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TRSGD) (2016) and are also included in the Highway Code. School streets signs and restrictions are no different to any other moving contravention signs that motorists are obligated to abide by. These signs are used across London and motorists should be familiar with them and abide by them accordingly.
- 4.7.1 A full assessment of all school street signage across the borough has been carried out and arrangements have been made to further improve the signage in terms of numbers, position and visibility across the borough. This would be over and above of is actually required and considered as necessary. If the scheme is made permanent, 'Term Time only' supplementary plates will be added to the main entry signs. All advance signs which already include this text are being redesigned as more of a pictorial sign, thereby making it easier for drivers to observe.

- 4.8 All the residents who are directly affected by the restrictions were informed of the restrictions and they are exempt by undergoing the registration process. All vehicles registered to the address can be registered for exemption. In terms of *affected* residents, only those who have no alternative vehicular access to their homes are classed as directly affected; all others who have an alternative vehicular route are classed as indirectly affected and cannot be exempt. To meet the objectives of the school street, it is necessary to minimise volume of traffic and it would not be possible to provide an exemption to anyone who has an alternative route. By facilitating non-essential traffic, it will do nothing to encourage a change in behaviour. Notwithstanding, in light of issues that have been raised across many school streets, the Council has been reviewing exemptions, for example, there are already provisions within the system for residents to enter the vehicle registrations of taxis that are being used to transport them for medical reasons. There are also provisions for carers and household emergencies. In terms of neighbouring roads, Parking Services will pay additional attention in this area to address any displacement.
- 4.9 The purpose of the school street is to improve safety, reduce risk and improve air quality in the restricted road as well as reduce traffic in general; after all, if parents or other visitors are discouraged to drive during the peak periods, there will be reduced traffic on route to and from the restricted roads. Another objective is to improve road safety and perception of road safety not only for pupils attending the school, but also for the residents and their visitors. This can be achieved by minimising volume of traffic past the school and remove the associated parking whilst pupils are arriving or leaving. For a school street to remain effective and to meet its objectives, it is necessary to reduce volume of traffic by reducing number of exemptions. Many delivery services can be made aware of the restricted periods when placing an order and deliveries can be made outside these hours. Trade personnel and other visitors can also enter the road either before or after the restricted periods. Emergencies can be exempt after the event as long as evidence of emergency is provided. Every effort is made to minimise inconvenience but it simply is not possible to accommodate every scenario or eventuality.
- 4.10 All statutory bodies have been consulted and no objections have been raised. All emergency services are exempt.
- 4.11 The local Ward Councillors have been engaged during the consultation process. The results of the consultation and officer's recommendations were presented to the Ward Councillors prior to preparing this report. The following comments have been received:

Councillor 1

This is a tricky one for me, as you know I have been negotiating with St Marks School because they have been having problems getting parking exemptions permits for visiting tutors, contractors, deliveries etc. as these are not regular, so can't be booked in advance. The school admin staff are having to spend a lot of time trying to deal with this, plus sorting out the problems arising when FPN's are issued.

As I've said before, it's a very complicated area with one way streets, no entry points, small cul-de-sacs, road narrows, plus the impact of St Thomas' school street on Commonside East meaning parents getting access to the rear of the school via Baker Lane, meaning an increase in traffic and parking problems in the area.

There's long been an issue with antisocial behaviour – with groups gathering around the Fair Green nearby – street drinkers, drug dealing with the usual littering taking place, plus residents feeling intimidated and reluctant to walk around the area especially in the evenings. These activities filter up Majestic Way into St Marks Rd past the school and on towards access to the station, with numerous nooks and crannies where they gather along the way. This is why we had to decline a Parklet opposite the school recently, as we felt it would be yet another target for these people to gather in.

I also note the comment about the underused multi-storey car park over Morrisons – can this be utilised in any way to help the situation??

So personally I would only be able to support making the scheme permanent if I was assured that the problems the school is having were resolved properly. I know the school supports the principal of school streets generally– they are just very frustrated with how it is affecting them in their particular circumstances.

Councillor 2

Thank you for the report, I must say that this scheme has been very unpopular with the School all the residents as far as I know there was never a real problem with parking there or parents dropping off children most of them walk .

The message I am getting is that they want it removed because the signs and cameras are deceptive not well placed, cannot be seen when they are driving up or turning, and its only there to make money.

Officer's comments

With regards to the signs, apart from the legal signs at the junction, there are advance warning signs on approach to the restricted section of St Marks' Rd. The signs have been checked once by an engineer familiar with the scheme and once by another member of staff who has not been involved with the school street project. It has been reported that signs are visible but drivers are simply not paying attention and ignoring the advance signs and they possibly do not understand the legal signs as these signs were not previously common. However with all London boroughs now using the same sign, motorists should by now be familiar with them.

With regards to the advance signs, if the scheme is made permanent, they will be changed to pictorial signs in the hope that they would capture motorists' attention.

The scheme was first introduced across the borough without ANPR cameras; the cameras were installed many months after the scheme was implemented purely because motorists were ignoring the restrictions. The scheme was not introduced to generate revenue.

With regards to the exemption process and facilitating the needs of the school, officers will make every attempt to address these issues directly with the school and provide as much support as possible.

5. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

5.1 It is clear that there are no overwhelming objections from the residents who are directly affected. It is considered that the benefits outweigh some of the inconveniences some residents / motorists may experience. Although feedback has been that this particular school is relatively quiet and does not suffer from the same school related congestion as in many other areas, the scheme is in line with Council's overall objectives and will instill a change in behavior for all traffic and those parents who drive their children to school. School streets are in line with other policies and initiatives across the Borough and London, and believed to be the right step toward changing behaviour as well as achieving the various benefits. Benefits include improved safety / perception of safety; the removal of the school-associated obstructive parking; reduced risk to all road users; reduced pollution including noise pollution; improved air quality in the restricted road as well as reduced traffic in general; after all if parents or other visitors are discouraged from driving during the peak periods, there will be reduced traffic on route to and from the restricted roads.

5.2 It is recommended that the permanent Order is made to retain the school street.

- 5.3 To reflect the change in the school's hours, it is recommended that a statutory consultation is undertaken to change the existing restricted hours to 8.15– 09.00am and 2.45 – 3.30pm.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 To remove the restrictions. This would compromise if not undo all the benefits that have been gained thus far and it would do nothing to encourage a change in behaviour. It would be contrary to the various objectives the Council is trying to achieve.

7. TIMETABLE

- 7.1 A newsletter detailing the results of the consultation and Cabinet Member decision will be distributed to all consultees soon after a Cabinet Member decision is made and published. The permanent Traffic Management Order will be made and published soon after.
- 7.2 The statutory consultation to reduce the restricted hours will be undertaken soon after Cabinet Member decision is made and residents will be informed accordingly.

8. FINANCIAL RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 All the associated costs are covered by the LSP funding provided by DfT / TfL.

9. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Traffic Management Orders would be made under Section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended). The Council is required by the Local Authorities Traffic Order (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 to give notice of its intention to make a Traffic Order (by publishing a draft traffic order). These regulations also require the Council to consider any representations received as a result of publishing the experimental order.
- 9.2 The Council has discretion as to whether or not to hold a public inquiry before deciding whether or not to make a traffic management order or to modify the published ETMO. A public inquiry should be held where it would provide further information, which would assist the Council in reaching a decision.
- 9.3 The Council's powers to make Traffic Management Orders arise mainly under sections 6, 45, 46, 122 and 124 and schedules 1 and 9 of the RTRA 1984.

10. HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHENSION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Council carries out careful consultation to ensure that all road users are given a fair opportunity to air their views and express their needs. The design of the scheme includes special consideration for the needs of people with blue badges, local residents, school children and businesses without prejudice toward charitable and religious facilities.
- 10.2 Bodies representing motorists, including commuters are included in the statutory consultation required for draft traffic management and similar orders published in the local paper and London Gazette.
- 10.3 The retention of the restrictions / improvements affects all sections of the community especially the young and assists in ensuring improved road environment and air quality for all road users and achieves the transport planning policies of the government, the Mayor for London and the Borough.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None

12. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There may be some dissatisfaction but the benefits of the scheme outweigh any inconvenience.

12.2 The risk of not retaining the restrictions would be a step backward in terms of Council's objectives and will not be in line with the Council's various strategies and projects.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 When determining the type of schemes to be designated on the highway, section 45(3) requires the Council to consider both the interests of traffic and those of the owners and occupiers of adjoining properties. In particular, the Council must have regard to: (a) the need for maintaining improved movement of traffic, (b) the need for maintaining reasonable access to premises, and (c) the need to reduce road collisions.

13.2 The restrictions removes traffic from this section of the road that makes it safer and more environmental friendly for pupils, residents and visitors.

14. Public Health Implications

14.1 School Streets and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) have important implications for public health in terms of physical activity, air quality and safety by creating healthy and secure neighbourhoods.

14.2 The implementation of School Streets and LTNs encourage the use of active travel options such as walking and cycling and build physical activity into daily routines. The removal or reduction of traffic from certain roads may encourage residents (particularly children) who would not usually consider active travel options to take these up in a quieter and safer environment ([Aldred, R. and Verlinghieri, E. 2020](#)).

14.3 Traffic is a key contributor to poor air quality in the borough which can have important health implications. The reduction of traffic in primarily residential areas or streets with schools can improve air quality in local areas and reduce the risk of developing cardiovascular disease and other health conditions. Studies from Waltham Forest found that in particular, there was a reduction in the amount of pollution caused during the school run where these schemes were in place ([Dajnak, 2018](#))

14.4 Implementation of these schemes have an important role to play in improving our local areas in terms of road safety. Reducing the flow of traffic in residential areas or in areas close to schools can reduce the risk of residents being involved in a serious collision with a vehicle.

15. APPENDICES

15.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report.

Appendix 1 - Newsletter & Plan
Appendix 2 - Representations

SCHOOL STREETS

Restricted Vehicular access

St Mark's Primary School



ISSUE DATE : 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

INTRODUCTION

As part of the Council's objective to reduce congestion, pollution, risk of collisions and provide a safe environment within the vicinity of schools, the Council has a rolling road safety and accessibility programme. Measures that are often implemented include 'school keep clear' zig-zag road markings to prevent drivers parking close to the school gates and to improve sightlines; localised 20mph speed zones with accompanying traffic calming measures and road safety education. These measures have been very successful in most areas, as there has been an improvement in perception of safety. Although these measures have been successful in ensuring access and safety, the level of congestion, risk and air quality outside the schools remain a concern. The contributing factor is the high localised volume of vehicular traffic within the vicinity of schools often generated by parents / carers of pupils attending the school.

PROPOSAL

To improve safety, active travel and air quality, and in response to Covid-19 pandemic, the Council intends to restrict motorised access in and out of the identified roads that accommodate school pedestrian gates during the morning school opening and afternoon school closing periods under an Experimental Traffic Management Order (ETMO). During these periods, the road will predominately be a 'pedestrian and cycle only' zone. Residents who live in the affected roads will be allowed access as will staff who are based at the school; those with special needs children who need to be driven to school would also be exempt. Those who are exempt must register with the Council; exemptions would be subject to meeting the appropriate criteria.

The appropriate signs will be in place to inform all motorists of the hours of closure.

The restrictions will be enforced by a camera.

The surrounding roads will be enforced against obstructive / illegal parking.

This measure is introduced to protect children and we would appreciate your assistance and support.

It is appreciated that this may cause some inconvenience and where possible the Council will endeavour to accommodate residents; however, for the scheme to be a success, the Council would require the cooperation of the school, parents and residents. We ask that the school and residents support our proposals and rearrange certain activities such as deliveries and receiving visitors outside the identified hours during each school term.

Consultation process

The proposed measure will be introduced shortly and will operate term times only during the published hours under an Experimental Traffic Management Order.

The Experimental Traffic Management Order will allow the Council to implement the restrictions during the consultation period.

- It allows the Council to assess and monitor the restriction and its impact.
- It will enable the residents and other road users to experience the restrictions thereby allowing them to make informed comments.

www.merton.gov.uk

The restrictions and the Order will be in place for a maximum of 18 months. Anyone can object and make representations within the first six months (the statutory/formal consultation period) of the experimental Order coming into force and the implementation of the works. Consultees are encouraged to make their comments at least 3 months **after** implementation. Consultees will have 6 months to respond to the consultation. All representations will be considered prior to making a final decision which could include its removal, making some modifications or making it permanent.

Additional notices will also be erected within the vicinity of the proposals to inform residents and road users of the start of the restrictions and the statutory consultation

All available information including updates will be posted on the website. <https://www.merton.gov.uk/covid-19-transport-projects>

All representations must be made online using the above link. Please note that you may not be able to submit any comments until mid-October 2020. A response will **not be** made until the consultation is concluded and a final decision is made. The Council will monitor the situation and will make the appropriate adjustments if and when necessary.

To apply for exemptions

Exemptions will be given to residents, teachers and special needs children. Residents and teachers **MUST** register with the Council to qualify for the exemption. Carers visiting residents who live in the road will also be exempt if their registration details are logged with the Council. However, we respectfully request that, if possible, visitors arrange their visits outside the restricted hours.

All residents affected by the new school streets will receive a separate letter advising you on how to apply. You will be given detailed instructions on

how to make your application for the exemption and once you have completed your application, your vehicle will be covered immediately. You can check the website for updates.

ENFORCEMENT

During the restrictions, enforcement will be carried out using cameras. However, please note that full enforcement will not be carried out until residents are given the opportunity to apply for exemptions. We do apologise for the short notification and the fact that the exemption process will not be available immediately but we believe that starting the process will have some benefits.

FIGGE'S MARSH WARD COUNCILLORS

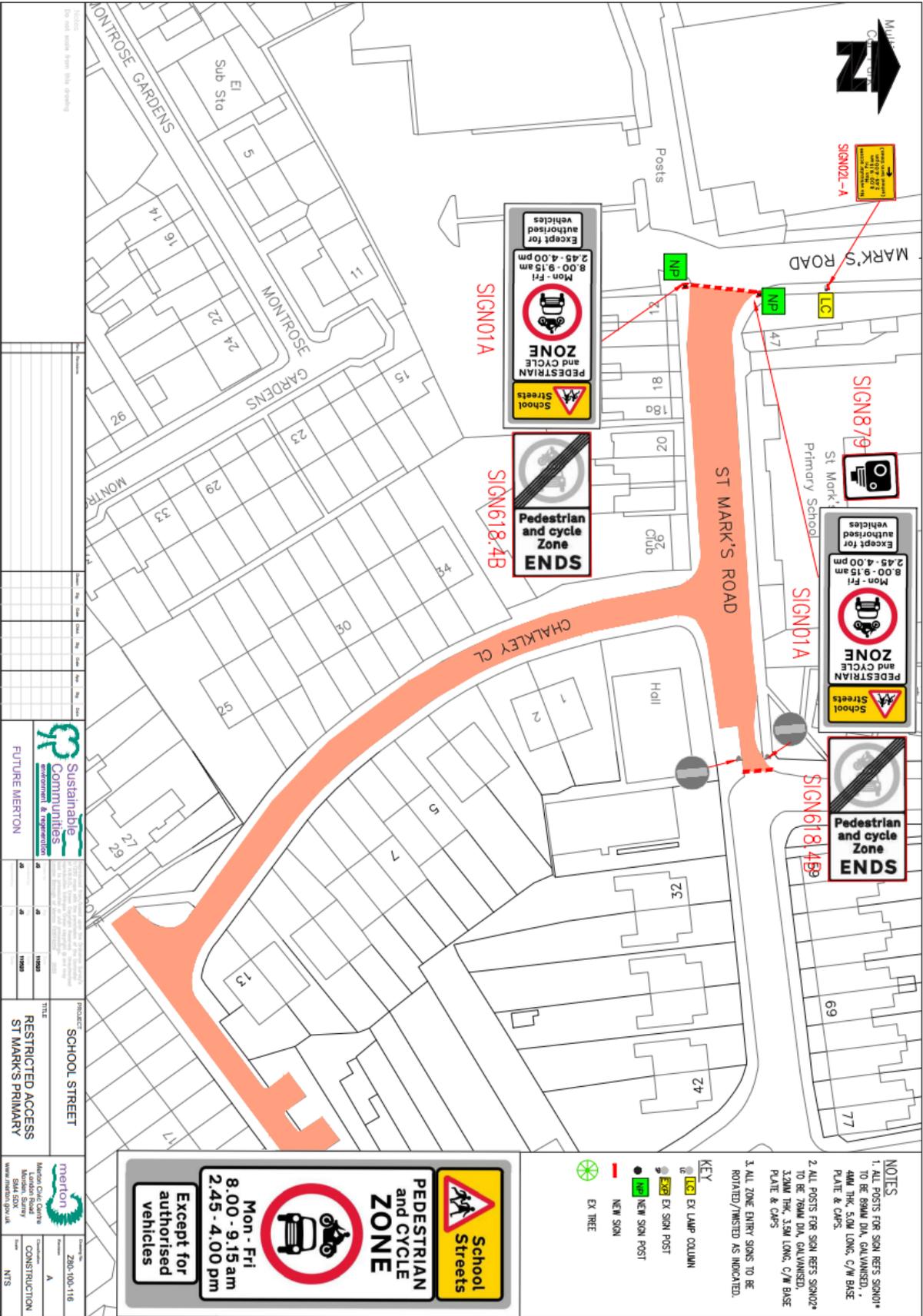
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| Representation from within restricted roads | | |
|--|----------|--|
| Chalkley Close 6309678 | Disagree | It stops deliveries and people visiting my address. Also my son has ASD so if I am unable to take him to school I'd ask a friend, I can not do this with these restrictions in place. Cabs can't come down the road to drop us or pick us up. I also have a work vehicle that I can not use during these times as I can't register another vehicle at my address |
| Representations from outside restricted roads | | |
| Tolverne Road | Agree | This response is on behalf of Merton Residents Transport Group (MRTG). We strongly support the school street at St Mark's. School streets such as this one play a critical role in reducing road danger to children, improving air quality and enabling walking, cycling and scooting for a wider range of people of different ages doing the school run. They additionally reduce the number of motor vehicle journeys, lower pollution near the school, and reduce congestion. Additionally, we would encourage Merton to take further measures to enhance the visibility and effectiveness of the school street: - Ensure consistent enforcement with the use of permanent cameras; these could pay for themselves and provide funds to further enhance the school street - Create new areas of trees and soft landscaping into the carriageway space - these could be parklets, pocket parks or planters to improve the air quality, sustainable drainage to reduce risk of flooding - Permanently close one end of the School Street at the junction with Majestic Way to permanently remove through traffic so children have a safe, clean street all day. - Install planters at the entrance to the school street to narrow the road width and create a gateway into the school street, enhancing its presence - Provide signage at a lower height, and more clearly delineate the zone We look forward to the continued safety and health benefits arising from the school street, and encourage Merton to further expand the scheme to schools not currently covered. Sincerely, MRTG |
| Laburnum Road 6335938 | Agree | Can u please tell me on what exact date did Mitcham St Marks road contravention code 53j start and when did the big yellow warning signs go up Thank you |
| Barnard Road 6285942 | Agree | I would like to see even more schemes |
| Vectis Road 6258294 | Disagree | I feel these schemes are yet another money making idea. Some schools such as St Marks has vehicles travelling to the farm foods car park constantly throughout all times of day and this scheme will in no way alter the safety of the road outside st marks school which has minimal traffic anyway. I feel this is yet another ill thought out money making scheme. I also feel that the council will not take into account any unsupportive views when making their final decision |
| Hilary Avenue 6333295 6330233 | Disagree | I live in Hilary Avenue which is very close to St Marks Primary School, 0.1 miles. I have lived here for ten years. Why were residents in the neighbouring streets not informed about the road safety enforcement for this school? One of the reasons for these vehicle restrictions is for the reduction of pollution making a better environment for children. The school is next to a small shopping centre which means vehicles go past the school constantly enabling customers to park at the shopping centre. Yet the restrictions start at the t- junction of ST MARKS ROAD and not at the crossing outside the school because to do this would stop people using the shopping centre and income for the businesses at the shopping centre. Pollution is still continuing in the area, so the restriction of vehicles into the restricted area is pointless. I believe this is a money making exercise for the council! Why not employ a lollipop person to get children safely across the road? The reason this has not been employed is because of COSTS. Why are the children's welfare and safety at Liberty Primary School Western Road Mitcham not matched to those at St |

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| | | <p>Marks Primary School? This school is on a busy A road where pollution and vehicle traffic would be at its highest! So why is the road safety scheme not placed at this school. The reason why it is not enforced is because the council would not stop traffic travelling along this road at the same time as St MARKS SCHOOL, because traffic would not flow on the borough. Yet you implement it on a school on a side street, so you can make money. There are other ways to protect children's safety lollipop people! As I have said I live in Hilary Avenue at the end of my road is Baker Lane, at the end of Baker Lane is a primary school St Thomas of Canterbury which has entrances at Baker Lane and Mitcham Commonsides East. There are restrictions for vehicle traffic at Commonsides East yet none for Baker Lane, are the children's safety measured differently? -----</p> <p>Why were residents not been informed by letter about the new restrictions that have been implemented for the restriction of vehicles driving past schools on the borough during certain hours? Currently on the front page of Merton Council website 07/05/2021 residents re being informed about a cafe is re-opening. I would rather of been informed about the restrictions at my local school. As a result of not being told about the new restrictions by letter I have received a penalty charge notice for the sum of £65 pounds. Easier to fine people and get revenue for the council then to write to residents in the area. I don't feel these restrictions have anything to do with children's road safety but just another way to make money for councils. If Merton council felt so strongly about children's welfare why has this not been implemented years ago? Why get rid of the Lollipop people who helped children cross the road?</p> |
| Hilary Avenue 6288019 | Disagree | As a resident who is flanked by three primary schools, these restrictions are proving to be a great inconvenience to our family life. I have two children who go to schools in Mitcham and Wimbledon. Normally, I need to drop both children off at differing times, so by blocking access, this forces me to take a longer route home which makes me late for the primary school run. On top of that, trying to now come home for a 9am work start is near impossible, as with the St Marks safety zone near Morrisons, we are now having to drive towards figges marsh and get held up down lock lane because of the train signals at Mitcham Eastfield. Exemptions should be made for residents who live in neighbouring streets, as the reasons we decided to purchase a property here, was because of the ease of travelling and this is now not the case. Can you look at issuing exemption passes for those residents who can prove how these restrictions are impacting them. |
| Lammas Avenue 6331392 | Disagree | You are punishing motorists trying to get to their homes, it's not right to close a road just because of school time. Lower the speed limit and put up speed cameras but closing the road is ridiculous, parents should be able to keep their children out of the road rather than fining motorists to get to their own homes. |
| Lammas Avenue 6331190 | Disagree | There are many people who live locally that need to pass St Marks Rd to get home. I have been charged with many fines as I was not aware of this change and was not notified at any point in time. I will be appealing these and accept this to be agreed with as it is impossible to get to my home without passing St marks rd. Not passing St Marks rd is not convenient as I maybe sometimes with little children and I need to get them home and feed them as soon as possible. I would like this change to be considered and discussed with local residents through email or letters |
| Lansdell Road 6337263 | Disagree | There is a public car park above Morrisons which is a stone's throw from St Mark's School and parents with cars can be made to use that facility |
| Gaston Road 6331147 | Disagree | No comments provided |