

Committee: Cabinet Member Report

Date: 17th December 2021

Agenda item: N/A

Wards: Village

Subject: School Streets – EMTO results- St Matthews 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 Road	Restricted periods Mon-Fri Term times only
St Matthews Primary School	Cottenham Park Rd, SW20 (between Burdett Ave & cul de sac)	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 8.00– 9.00am and 2.45 – 3.45pm 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 seek approval to undertake a statutory consultation to change the hours of operation to 8.00– 9.00am and 2.45 – 3.45pm 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. 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 within the following road. The school street restricts motorised traffic during specific times based on schools’ starting and finishing times. The restrictions only apply during school term periods.

School	Restricted Road	Restricted periods Mon-Fri Term times only
St Matthews Primary School	Cottenham Park Rd, SW20 (between Burdett Ave & cul de sac)	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 at least 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 road as set out within the above table is predominately ‘pedestrian and cycle only’ zone. Residents who live in the affected road 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 also register with the Council; exemptions are subject to meeting the appropriate criteria. Location plan and exemption catchment area are 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 road. The school was also requested to inform and remind parents of the restrictions.
- 4.4 The statutory consultation resulted in 9 representations. These include 2 objections from within the newsletter postal area and 7 from outside the newsletter postal area (4 in support and 3 objections). All responses are detailed in Appendix 2.
- 4.5 It is essential to note that when making a decision based on the outcome of a statutory consultation, consideration is given to the validity of objections rather than the number of objections. Given that only 14.3% of the affected residents object, it can be concluded that the majority of the residents do not object to the scheme.
- 4.6 In response to the objection regarding the restriction boundary, boundaries are drawn at a point that would cause minimum interruption with a suitable turning / alternative route for drivers— often at a junction where drivers can take an alternative route rather than undertaking a U-turn manoeuvre using residential crossovers. If the entrance to the private road was to be excluded from the restrictions it may lead to parents stopping within the private road or use it as a turning head.
- 4.7 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 across the borough 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. It is considered that there will be a change in behaviour albeit at a slower pace than expected.
- 4.8 It is appreciated that some parents continue to resist the change and have found their way into neighbouring roads or else / and stop on the boundary of the restriction causing a nuisance. However, in this instance there have not been any complaints about obstructive parking or displacement of traffic from the neighbouring roads.
- 4.9 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 additional periods to capture the many parents who arrive early particularly during afternoon pick up periods.

- 4.10 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 road fully comply with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TRSGD) (2016). 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.
- 4.11 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 by some residents, 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.
- 4.12 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.
- 4.13 The school street restrictions do not prevent residents from accessing their homes, and the system makes provision for exemptions under certain circumstances. Anyone within the restricted road can leave at any time. The contravention is for entering the road. In terms of visitors, there is nothing preventing visitors arriving within the restricted periods as long as it is not in a motorised vehicle. The Council has a number of initiatives that encourages those travelling within the borough to use active and / or sustainable modes of transport and not be so reliant on the use of private motorised vehicles. If the scheme becomes permanent, a newsletter detailing these points will be sent to all the residents.
- 4.14 All statutory bodies have been consulted and no objections have been raised.
- 4.15 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.

5. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 When considering the outcome of the statutory consultation, consideration is given to the nature and validity of the comments / representations and the Council's objectives. A statutory consultation invites objections to the scheme and since only 14.3% of those directly affected have chosen to object, it could be considered that 85.7% of those directly affected do not object to the scheme.
- 5.2 It is clear that there are no strong objections from the residents who are directly affected. It is considered that the benefits outweigh some of the inconveniences some residents / motorists may experience. 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 to drive during the peak periods, there will be reduced traffic on route to and from the restricted roads.
- 5.3 It is recommended that the permanent Order is made to retain the school street.
- 5.4 To reflect the change in the school's hours, it is recommended that a statutory consultation is undertaken to change (reduce) the existing restricted hours to 8.00– 9.00am and 2.45 – 3.45pm.
- 5.5 There is an alternative access to the school via Oakwood Rd /Cottenham Park Rd, which the Council did not include within the restriction; to do so would mean further assessment to determine the level and extent of any dispersal should the school street be extended to include Oakwood Rd and Cottenham Park Rd. In the absence of any complaints, no immediate action has been taken or planned; however, consideration could be given to extent the school street within next financial year subject to consultation and funding.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 To remove the restrictions. This would be contrary to the various objectives the Council is trying to achieve and it would do nothing to encourage a change in behaviour.

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 amongst the objectors but the benefits of the scheme outweigh majority of the comments made against the scheme.
- 12.2 The risk of not retaining the improvements / 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 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 to statutory consultation

SCHOOL STREETS

Restricted Vehicular access

St Matthews 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.

VILLAGE WARD COUNCILLORS

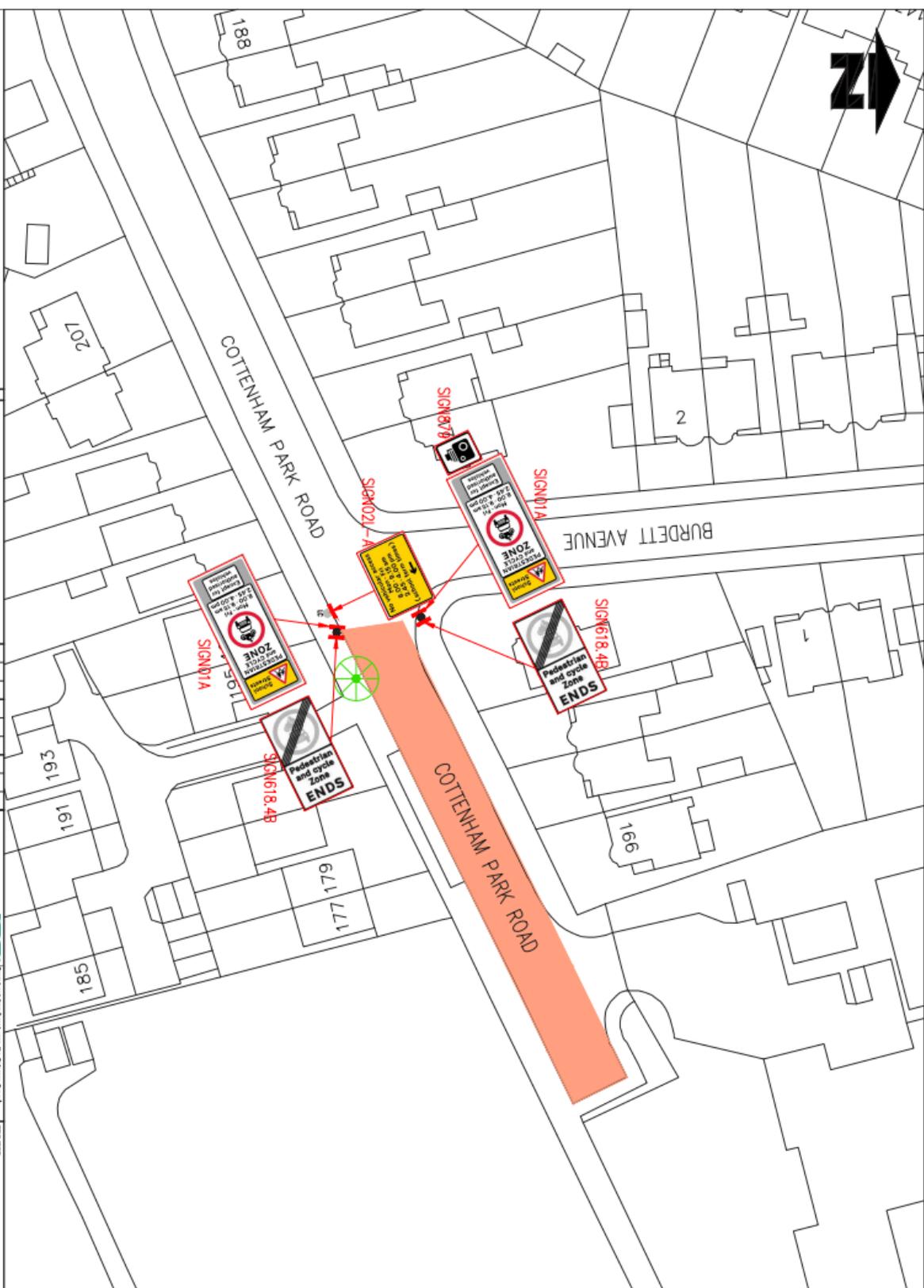
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Notes
Do not scale from this drawing

NOTES

1. ALL POSTS FOR SIGN REFS SIGN017* TO BE 80MM DIA, GALVANISED, 40MM THK, 5.0M LONG, C/W BASE PLATE & CAPS.
2. ALL POSTS FOR SIGN REFS SIGN027* TO BE 70MM DIA, GALVANISED, 3.2MM THK, 3.5M LONG, C/W BASE PLATE & CAPS
3. ALL ZONE ENTRY SIGNS TO BE ROTATED/TWISTED AS INDICATED.

KEY

-  EX LAMP COLUMN
-  EX POST & SIGN
-  EX LL/WIDE BASE SIGN POST
-  NEW POST & SIGN
-  NEW SIGN
-  EX TREE



School Streets



PEDESTRIAN and CYCLE ZONE

Mon - Fri
8.00 - 9.15 am
2.45 - 4.00 pm

Except for authorised vehicles



Sustainable Communities
 environment & regeneration

FUTURE MERTON

PROJECT
 COVID-19 SCHOOL STREETS

TITLE
 RESTRICTED VEHICLE ACCESS ST MATTHEWS

DATE
 2020-10-10

CONTRACTOR
 A

CONSTRUCTION
 NTS

From within the newsletter catchment area		
Cottenham Park Road 6286488	Disagree	The scheme is preventing free access onto our road which has 5 houses in it. Its completely unfair to place any restrictions on access to our property without any prior notice or formal consultation, none of these took place and we only found out about the restrictions when the signs went up. Allowing us to register our cars for exemption is not sufficient because it will not cover any other visitors to our house or any trade, deliveries and similar visits. The drawings of the boundary should have been drawn to exclude the private street entrance to our property. We strongly object to the restrictions placed on accessing our house which are also during weekends and holidays when the school is shut. It shows little concern to the residents and poor planning by blocking access to private properties. We intend to fight against this unfair scheme and if needed will take formal action to protect our civil rights to have free unrestricted access to our house for anyone that would like to visit us using a car. I am very disappointed with the council that have shown such disregard to the welfare and personal freedom of its tax paying residents.
Cottenham Park Road 6344589	Disagree	Living in the affected road we are allowed to drive in and out, but only after great inconvenience to register vehicles. Hopeless for visitors and deliveries. We have every right to have cars drive to us whatever time of day without being fined. No relevance to COVID-19- please explain. Just pushes cars for the school slightly further away and becomes another street's problem.
From outside newsletter catchment area		
Burdett Avenue 6304134 6344550	Agree	agree with the scheme but there is an excess of street furniture and cameras in what is effectively 20 meters of road. It's very ugly and surely expensive. A couple of fines would quickly put the word around and have the same effect.
Durham Rd 6344683	Agree	No comments provided
Oakwood Rd 6317489	Agree	No comments provided
Tolverne Road 6347873	Agree	This response is on behalf of Merton Residents Transport Group (MRTG). We strongly support the school street at St Matthews School. 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 - 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 - 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. 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
Coombe Lane 6265508	Disagree	I believe this scheme which will remove approx 33% of local parking spaces will make it more dangerous for local children to walk to school. The parking camera added in 2019 was very effective in reducing illegal parking but further restrictions without the provision of a dedicated bus for very young children will be detrimental potentially leading to other congested local streets and dangerous turning circles. I fear that children learning to walk or cycle to school will face increased risks. In addition the effects of introducing this during COVID lead to people parking in a way that increases congestion

East Road 6313771	Disagree	No comments provided
Worple Rd 6345450	Disagree	<p>I think Merton has failed to notice the significance the alley & the corner of Cottenham Park Rd/ Oakwood Rd. The majority of St Matthews children enter the site via the alley at the end of Cottenham Park as the access to the school for children is off the alley. The entrance to the alley is on a 90 degree corner with very poor visibility. The markings to announce that there is a school nearby are very badly signposted. What is also not acknowledged by the council is that this junction between the alley & the corner of Cottenham Park Rd/ Oakwood Rd is an extremely busy site:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is the access for St Matthews School. 2. It hosts the entrance of the 19th Wimbledon Scout's Hall. 3. It is also the drop off point for Little Forest Folk Nursery. 4. It is the access point for the Hall School playing fields. The children use this entrance, not the entrance on Lindisfarne. 5. 500m away from the corner is Morely Park, the playing fields for Ursuline school. There are children, of all ages, from nursery to High School, accessing this vicinity, all day & into the evening. The drop offs & pick up times are not limited to those of a primary school. <p>I would suggest that Merton simply improve the signage, create a raised hump spanning the corner (painted with a chevron or something eye-catching - a rainbow?) & a mirror if necessary. Better lighting at the end of the alley/junction with the road. Many children walk, cycle or scoot along the alley, so perhaps a flexible gate might be more suitable (like there used to be) rather than the bollards which are no hindrance to speedy toddlers.</p>