**As a driver, this is a major inconvenience, why should I let a Play Street take place?**

Play Streets should not be treated as a major inconvenience as residents can still drive in and out during the session if they need to. Under the guidance and supervision of a ‘Steward’ or ‘Marshall’, access can still be maintained, just at walking speed to make it safe for everyone.

For drivers affected by the closure it will usually only mean a small delay to journey times. In most cases, Play Street’s only last a few hours and in the majority of cases will take place outside peak times and at weekends.

If you do have concerns, please talk to the organisers to discuss your issues and hopefully you can reach a solution.

**Will you still let visitors/deliveries through?**

Yes, ‘Stewards’ will ensure that all drivers wanting to drive down the road are aware that through traffic is not allowed but if a delivery needs to be made or someone is visiting, the steward will escort the driver at walking pace to their destination.

**This is going to have a negative impact on my business, why should I let it happen?**

As part of the application process, everyone within the closure area should be consulted. If you are outside the closure area, talk to the organisers about your concerns in an open neighbourly way.

There is usually a compromise if you really need access to parking for your customers, although please remember there is no right to parking on a public highway, even for residents.

There is strong support for children’s right to play out amongst parents and grandparents in particular, so you might even find that by being accommodating or offering support you improve your business image and get new customers.

**Why does the road need to be closed just to let children play?**

Streets are far more congested than they were twenty or thirty years ago and it is no longer common to see children out playing as it used to be. Having to organise an official road closure in order to use the street in this way is not an ideal situation and is not a long-term solution. In some very quiet streets, a road closure might not be necessary in order for children to safely play in the road. However, the danger from fast-moving traffic is one of the main reasons that children don’t play outside in modern times. In many residential streets, cars, both parked and moving, dominate to such an extent that play becomes impossible. In this instance, closing the road to through-traffic and having stewards in place provides the reassurance parents need to allow their children to play out while still allowing residents car access. Ideally, our streets should be spaces where cars and people of all ages can coexist happily.

**Won’t a Play Street invite lots of children to my street from elsewhere?**

Each Play Street is organised by residents and only publicised through flyers and posters on their own street. They are for the children to have a chance to play right outside their front doors and not designed to be large scale public ‘events’.

Although Play Streets only apply to the street which is closed, it should be remembered that the street is a public space, so it is not possible or desirable to try to exclude people coming in from outside.

**Won’t the noise made by children playing outside be a nuisance?**

It could be argued that the sound of children playing is a wonderful thing and something we no longer hear enough of. At present, the noise associated with traffic, planes and activities such as road works can be tolerated. Even those who do not drive have to live with traffic noise, which most people have grown accustomed to.

Children cannot be contained within houses, cars and designated ‘play areas’. The city they live in is theirs too and it is their right to use the space in the way they need to. Play Streets are normally only a few hours long and take place on a weekend.

If a Play Street event was excessively or unreasonably loud, it may be appropriate to organise a street meeting to discuss it and try to reach a solution everyone is happy with.

**I’m worried about my car being damaged.**

If you are nervous about your car being damaged you may choose to park it elsewhere during the event. Parents are responsible for their children during playing out sessions but any adult who sees a child causing damage should talk to them or their parents about it. The organisers and stewards will do their best to ensure that children play safely and responsibly.

**Who is going to pay if my property is damaged?**

In terms of damage to property (including cars), the liability situation is no different with a road closure than under normal circumstances i.e. people take responsibility for their own actions. Parents will have ultimate responsibility for their own children and residents will need to resolve any issues between each other and their insurers.

**I don’t like the idea of children playing unsupervised. Who will make sure they do not get up to mischief?**

It is made very clear that parents are responsible for their own children during sessions, but if any adult sees children playing out on the street seriously misbehaving or causing damage or injury they should take responsibility to speak to them or their parents about it in a reasonable way. Being kept in check by other adults in our community is an important learning experience.

**Won’t it encourage children to think the road is a safe place to play under normal circumstances?**

Playing out sessions are a good opportunity for parents to talk to their children about road safety and the danger of traffic but also to observe what streets could be like if traffic was less dominant and begin to think about ways to slow cars on their street.

**I do not have young children and this idea makes me feel excluded from my own street.**

We need to remember that for the vast majority of the time, children may feel excluded from this space right outside their homes. Organisers should make sure that residents of all ages feel welcome to be out on the street and sessions do not just feel like family events. At some sessions, older residents or those without children have helped to steward or just enjoyed sitting out, meeting neighbours and sharing memories about their own childhood play experiences. Parents may assume that those without young children will not be interested in being involved, so do make it clear to them if you want to be. Your support will certainly be welcome!

**What other benefits are there to a Play Street event?**

As well as safer and cleaner streets, another key factor in enabling street play is parental permission. Parents feel anxious about allowing children to play on the street for all sorts of reasons and often feel unsure about the cultural acceptability of letting kids play out on the street. Play Streets are a chance for parents to get together and support each other’s desire to let children play out.