



A practical guide to delivering school street closures; the challenges and opportunities

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Outline

- School Streets – what and why?
- Southampton overview (pre/post-COVID)
- Considerations
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Recommendations

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School Streets – what and why?

Types:

- Hard closure – permanent or timed
- Soft closure – permit or manned

Benefits:

- Improve road safety
- Encourage active travel
- Improve air quality
- Change the feel of a neighbourhood
- Change perceptions of how road space should be used

“Absolutely loved not being a “prisoner” in or out of my own home.”

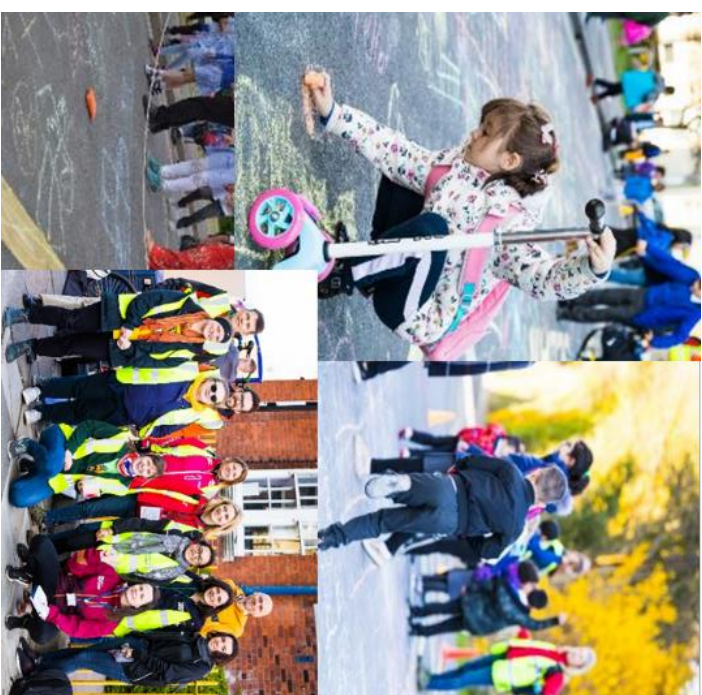
“Being a child of the 50s, this is how we played. Days like today are great for children. It was good to tell my granddaughter how it used to be, she was amazed!”

Loved the street being closed and watching the children playing together’

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SCC School Streets pre March 2020

- St John's Primary
- Shoiling Child-Friendly Streets
- Sustrans Big Pedal
- St Mary's CE Primary



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SCC School Streets pre March 2020



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SCC School Streets post March 2020

- Impact of COVID-19
- Mechanism
- Process
- Current situation



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Considerations

- Approach
- Eligibility
- Prioritising schools
- Funding sources
- Costs
- Turnaround time
- Extent of closure
- Legal mechanism
- Formal diversions
- Park & Stride
- Volunteers
- Identifying stakeholders
- Comms
- “Hidden” stakeholders
- COVID secure procedures
- M&E
- Long-term vision



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Challenges

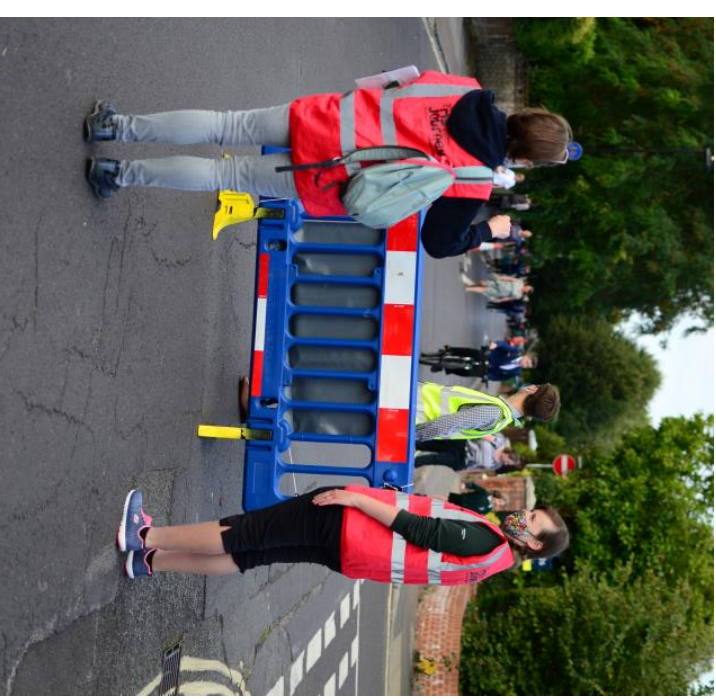
- School capacity
- Council capacity
- M&E
- Site suitability
- Liability
- Volunteer recruitment
- Complaints



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Opportunities

- Public support
- Trials
- “Push factor”
- The “new normal” – or the old normal?
- School community ownership
- Eligible schools
- Council reputation!



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Recommendations

- Clear, timely communications
- Tools, training and resources
- Flexibility within trials
- Identify & diversify funding sources
- Dedicated Council staff resource
- Accompanying behaviour change programme
- Assess & mitigate risks
- Robust M&E plan



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Further info

Videos

- Shirley Junior School (Sep 2020 start): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iilTS0ZGcc>
- St Mary's Primary (trial pre drop bollard installation): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29VL7Gw4fZw>
- Sholling Infants & Juniors: one-day trial as part of Sustrans Big Pedal https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSd0Ch9_eQg
- St John's Primary (timed closure with drop bollards): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_WxpxNnXcw

Articles

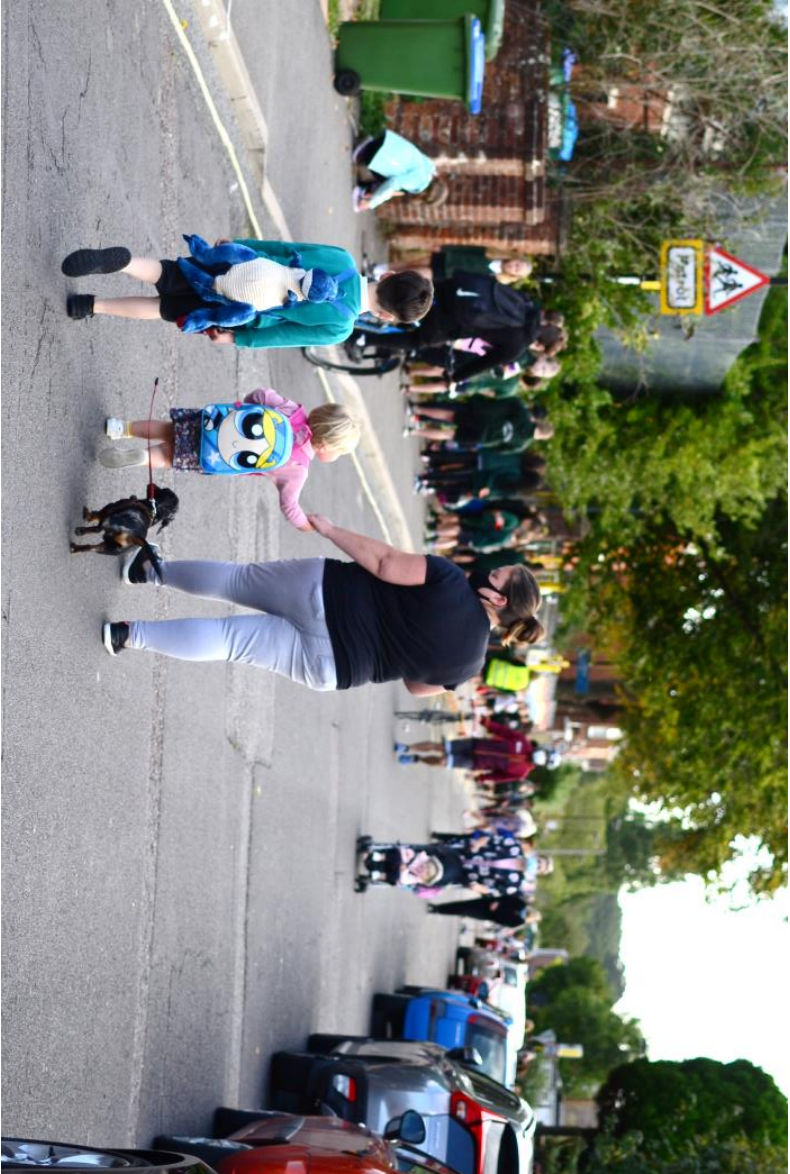
- St John's Primary <https://myjourneyhampshire.com/traffic-and-travel-info/keep-active-stay-safe/st-johns-primary-primary-nursery-school-school-streets-case-study/>
- St Marys CE Primary <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/news/2020/february/second-southampton-primary-school-closes-road-to-cars-during-school-run-to-improve-safety-and-air-quality/>
- Daily Echo 3 Nov Southampton schools join scheme for healthier school run <https://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/18841796.southampton-schools-join-scheme-healthier-school-run/>
- SCC Green Transport Recovery Plan: <https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/keepactive>

Social media

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Thank you!

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