**The Willows Primary School Street Proposal**

**Dear Residents,**

I am writing to provide information about the School Street that is proposed in this area and to invite you to share your views on the proposal.

**What is a School Street?**

The purpose of a School Street is to create a safer, healthier and more pleasant environment outside the school gates by reducing danger to children from vehicles, improving air quality and encouraging active travel to school.

When the school street is operational at the start and end of the school day, the road becomes a temporary walking, wheeling and cycling zone in line with the Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Strategy.

Access would still be maintained for residents and businesses within the closure zone, valid blue badge holders, pedestrians, and cyclists. Emergency vehicles would also always have access.

**Aims**

By temporarily closing the road to motor vehicles at the start and end of the school day we aim to help

* Create a safer environment outside the school gates for children, families and residents
* Improve the air quality in and around the school by reducing pollution from traffic and vehicles waiting with their engines running
* Improve health and wellbeing by making it easier for families to walk, wheel and cycle to school
* Reduce anti-social behaviour from inconsiderate parking and dangerous manoeuvres

**What is the proposal for the School Street?**

The proposal is to trial a School Street on Victoria Road (outside The Willows Primary up to the junction with Alexander Drive) and is summarised as follows:

Between the hours of 8.15-9.15am and 2.45-3.45pm on school days that part of Victoria Road would become a temporary pedestrian and cycling zone.

Residents and businesses and holders of a valid blue badge would still be able to maintain access.

**Why are we considering a School Street?**

The Willows Primary School is being considered for a School Street because of the ongoing risks to children’s safety that have resulted in multiple near misses occurring on the road outside the school. School Streets are widespread in London and other UK cities, where they have been shown to increase walking and cycling and reduce traffic, and are being implemented across Greater Manchester. There are currently five School Streets in Trafford.

**Have your say**

Whatever your views about School Streets, as a parent, resident, business, or driver, we would like to hear your views. Your views are important to us and will help the Council make a decision.

The easiest way to give your feedback is complete the online questionnaire at

<https://trafford.citizenspace.com/>

This questionnaire will go live on **18th June** and close on **4th July**.

Alternatively, from 18th June you can collect a paper questionnaire from The Willows Primary School and return it to the school by 4th July.

**What happens next?**

We will be holding two one-day trial events on

**Wednesday 18th June (8.15 – 9.15am and 2.45 – 3.45pm)**

**Wednesday 25th June (8.15 – 9.15am and 2.45 – 3.45pm)**

We will also be holding drop-in sessions to discuss the proposalsand listen to feedback:

**Thursday 19th June, online Zoom consultation, 7 – 7.30pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/91670315585?pwd=LOYG3msCsfAPJfZ46Zbc5ctSMOJaWM.1

Meeting ID: 916 7031 5585

Passcode: 5kqzLt

**Thursday 26th June, The Willows Primary School, 3.30 – 4pm**

Any feedback will be collated and will help us reach a decision on whether we proceed with the School Street. Should the Council agree to proceed with these proposals, all affected properties will receive a letter to inform them of the start date.

**Volunteers**

The School Street scheme relies on volunteers to start with. If you support the aims of the School Street and are able to, please consider volunteering. Volunteers work in pairs to put out the closure barriers on the road, escort exempt vehicles through the School Street and help re-direct drivers. Training, equipment and support will be provided. Volunteers on a School Street often find this to be a very rewarding role in which they can immediately see the difference they are making to children’s lives. If you would like to volunteer or to find out more about volunteering on the School Street please contact Hannah Stanton (School Streets Officer for Trafford) at hannah@traffordcollective.org.uk / 07535 319 333.

**More Information**

For more information on our school street program including FAQ’s , please visit <https://www.trafford.gov.uk/residents/transport-and-streets/road-safety/School-Streets.aspx>

If you need assistance responding, you can email traffordtraffic@amey.co.uk or call 0161 694 8970