

RE: EXPERIMENTAL TRO – Various Roads (Witney) - Experimental School Streets Schemes (Phase 1b)

I am writing to inform you that Oxfordshire County Council - in partnership with walking & cycling charity 'Sustrans' and backed by financial support from the government – has made an Experimental Traffic Order that introduces 'School Streets' (timed road closures that prohibit access for motor vehicles at school drop-off and/or pick-up times) in the vicinity of Tower Hill Community Primary School in Witney. The aim is to create a safe, welcoming and attractive environment where children, parents and teachers can walk, cycle or scoot, or park away from and walk to school with less risk of concentrated air pollution and traffic congestion.

The closures will operate during term-time only. This 'pilot' scheme will run for an initial 6 week period, and if successful, will continue to run until a decision is made on whether it becomes permanent. Exempt motorists include emergency services, residents and visitors. The experiment will be monitored by the County Council, with findings to be reported to the Council's Transport Committee meeting after at least 6 months. This monitoring will help ensure the right decision is made about whether to make the arrangements permanent. The effect of the experimental order is to place temporary supervised barriers to close roads at the following locations and times to prevent motor vehicles from entering:

1. **Tower Hill Community Primary School** (8:30am to 9:15am & 2:45pm to 3:30pm):
 - a. Davenport Road – at its junction with Park Road.
 - b. Moor Avenue – between its junctions with Burford Road & Dark Lane

During closure times at school 'pick-up' and 'drop-off' (Monday to Friday), roads around the school sites will be closed to motor vehicles. A lead steward assisted by volunteers from the school and local community will manage and marshal the road closures by operating temporary barriers and opening them for any exempt vehicles. Exempt motorists include school & local buses, residents visitors, blue badge holders, emergency vehicles, plus council organised school transport for students with additional needs. Work will continue during the experiment with the schools to ensure that anyone with specific needs is not adversely affected.

A series of frequently asked questions on School Streets is available on the county council's website [here](#)

The Experimental Order was advertised in the Oxford Times on Thursday 13th May – with the order coming into force on **Monday 24th May 2021**. It will operate for a maximum period of 18 months & the County Council will be considering in due course whether the provisions of the experimental Order should be continued in force indefinitely. The statutory legal documents are attached and are also available to view on the Councils consultation pages at the following address:

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ExperimentalSchoolStreetWit1b/consultationHome>

Any person may object to the making of the order for the purposes of such indefinite continuation within a period of 6 months i.e. any objections or other representations should be submitted by **Friday 26th November 2021**. Please do get back to me should you have any questions or queries or if you require any additional information.