

## Update

Almost everyone supports Oxfordshire County Council's "Schools Street" policy to reduce vehicle pollution, danger and noise near schools. In Witney, a scheme at Tower Hill has already gone ahead, while the proposal for the Henry Box school on Church Green has been paused after it was realised that there are actually three schools on Church Green and two of these (and the residents) would be adversely affected by the initial ideas.

In the meantime, the community around Church Green has documented what they want from any traffic scheme. We have contacted residents, schools and businesses and held an online review meeting to review the results. There is now a short document - viewable online - of what the local community actually wants.

Meeting all these needs is unlikely and indeed some may be met bit by bit. These requirements focus on what is wanted from any design - less traffic, safer roads, encouraging walking, less pollution. However the community has been very creative, for example finding forgotten paths pupils could use to walk to school and altering current traffic flows to improve the environment.

Businesses may well complain about planned parking restrictions when the plans are discussed. But after the schemes have been implemented elsewhere, businesses have normally enjoyed a better environment and extra footfall. Church Green is already enjoyable but can become a more enjoyable, safer asset for all of Witney.