

Parking Services
P O Box 1462
Croydon
CR9 1WX
Tel/Typetalk: 020 8726 6000
Minicom: 020 8760 5797

The Occupier
«Address1»
«Address2»
«Address3»
«Address4»

Contact: Parking Services
frede.jensen@croydon.gov.uk
Tel: 020 8726 6000, ext 88003
Our Ref: PS/FJ/P781
Date: 9 January 2020

Important Traffic and Parking Questionnaire

Dear Occupier,

Possible School Street scheme in Southcote Road

I am writing to ask for your views on the possibility of introducing a School Street scheme in a section of Southcote Road later in 2020.

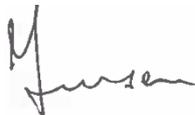
It is suggested to designate part of the street a pedestrian and cyclist zone at the start and end of school days, as it is shown in the enclosed drawing. Residents and occupiers within the zone would become eligible for an exemption permit, to enable them drive in the road unhindered at any time.

The feedback you provide in response to this informal engagement will assist the decision whether to develop a formal proposal for a statutory public consultation. Your views are important and we would be grateful if you could respond to the attached questions by email to **schoolparking@croydon.gov.uk** or by post to the above address by **Friday 31st January 2020**.

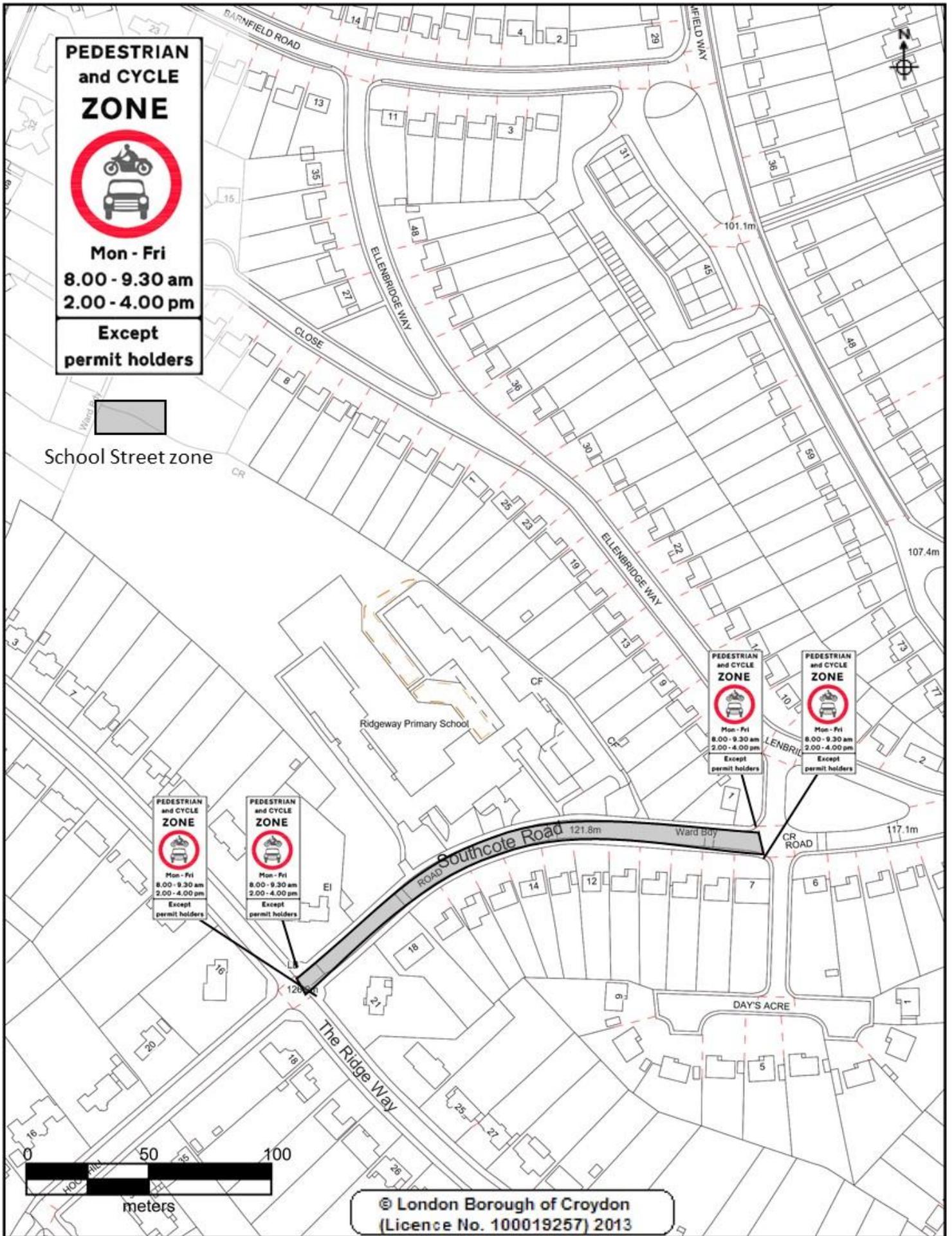
Before completing the questionnaire you may wish to look at the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions sheet.

Please let me know if you require further information or clarification.

Yours faithfully,



Frede Jensen
Project Manager



School Street Consultation – QUESTIONNAIRE – Southcote Road

Please ensure you complete and return this questionnaire by email or post to reach us by **Friday 31st January 2020**.

You may scan or photo/picture copy as an attachment or simply write an email in equivalent statements (without attaching this questionnaire).

Name*

Address*

** Without this information your views will not be counted. This information will be used only for the purpose of validating this consultation. One response per household.*

Are you in favour of introducing a School Street as shown in the drawing?

Please choose **one** option only by putting an 'X' in the appropriate box.

Yes, traffic restriction at start and end of school day is needed

No, traffic restriction at start and end of school day is not needed

Whether you answered 'Yes' or 'No' above, please provide any comments that you wish to contribute to the decision process for developing a proposal for the suggested scheme. Continue on the reverse if necessary.

Comments:

School Street – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a School Street?

In present context, it is a street with a school entrance, which is restricted to use by pedestrians and cyclists, with most motor vehicle traffic prohibited, between the hours of 08:00 to 09:30 and 14:00 to 16:00 on weekdays. In accordance with the Highway Code for the School Street signs, the restriction applies to the act of driving into the road during the stated hours. Vehicles arriving outside these hours will be permitted to remain parked in the road and can drive out of the road at any time. In practice, the restrictions are not enforced during school holidays. Exempted vehicles can drive in the road at all times.

2. Why is the Council considering this?

The School Street is proposed, firstly, in response to requests for something to be done about obstruction, safety and air pollution concerns from the high volume of traffic and parking at school times. Many journeys previously considered easy walkable are increasingly made by car. The London Mayor has made it an overarching policy that all local Councils must encourage children and parents to use cars less and to walk, cycle and use public transport more. The opening of a School Street will coincide with additional road safety and travel training for children at the school, and information to parents.

3. What have people reported from similar schemes in other places?

The Council introduced the first School Street schemes in 2017. Follow-up surveys show that the schools and residents inside the zones remain in favour of the schemes and that significant more children now walk to school. Concerns have been raised about the displacement of the residual car travel, with some school children now being dropped-off and picked-up in neighbouring roads. This effect is reduced in amount and is dispersed over a wider area. School parents have needed time to become influenced and find alternative arrangements to their usual car journey.

4. What is the difference between informal engagement and statutory consultation?

The Council has already assessed that the requested School Street scheme might be feasible. The current informal stage of engagement is intended to gauge the first-hand opinions of people who reside within and immediately outside the proposed zone, to help decide upon and design a proposal in more detail. The Traffic Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) of elected councillors will then review the detailed proposal, together with the opinions in support and in opposition to the scheme.

If it is agreed to proceed further, a subsequent formal stage of consultation is conducted in accordance with the legal obligation on the Council to issue a statutory Public Notice and to allow a time for receiving objections from the wider public and public services authorities. The outcome of a statutory consultation is reported back to the TMAC for final consideration, before a scheme is finally decided upon.

5. Where will the scheme operate?

It is presently suggested to place signs at the entrance to the School Street as is shown on the associated drawing. The current engagement is open to comments or petitions for changes to this suggestion. Beware, it would only be possible to establish zone start and end points at appropriate road junctions, to present drivers with a realistic opportunity to select an alternative route and to avoid leading them into a road where they would be forced to make difficult and potentially hazardous U-turns.

6. What if I need to drive my car in the street during the restricted hours?

Motor vehicles belonging to the following groups of drivers are eligible for an exemption permit, to enable them driving into the School Street during the hours of operation:

- Occupier within the zone, with a registered vehicle or a hire, company or courtesy car agreement.
- Vehicles used in the transport of children and adults with special access needs, including private vehicles, taxis and minicabs declared for such use.
- Business and school employees with allocated parking on their premises inside the zone.
- Essential health and care visitors, including relatives of residents with care needs.
- All day commercial operators, such as builders, decorators and heavy goods suppliers, are eligible for a temporary permit covering the duration of their necessary activities.

The exemption permit is simply an electronic record in the compliance system and there is no need to physically affix anything to a vehicle.

Motor vehicles belonging to the following groups and situations are automatically permitted to drive in a School Street, without first obtaining an exemption permit:

- Emergency services.
- Statutory public services, such as gas/electricity companies and refuse collectors.
- Universal postal service providers, such as the Royal Mail.
- Breakdown and recovery vehicles (the so called 4th emergency service).
- Exemptions stated in the Highway Code, such as at the direction of a police officer.

7. What about our visitors?

Other drivers who wish to access the School Street must arrive outside the hours of operation, or they can temporarily park outside the zone and then move the vehicle once the restrictions end. The vehicles that are not eligible for a permit notably include those of:

- General visitors to residents and businesses.
- Home deliveries.
- Business and school employees without access to on-premises parking (the scheme is not intended to free up the road to substitute for workplace parking). It is pragmatically accepted that on-site parking facilities may occasionally create an over-spill into the public road.

8. How much will an exemption permit cost?

The permit is free (£0.00) and requested by email to schoolparking@croydon.gov.uk.

9. Can you guarantee me a parking space outside my house?

It is not possible to guarantee anyone a particular space on the public highway.

10. How can it be ensured that motorists driving in the School Street zone are entitled?

A traffic camera with automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) and a contravention detection algorithm will operate during the controlled hours. To prevent false triggers and to permit a driver correcting a turning mistake, the alleged contravention trigger point is a small distance into the road. The Penalty Charge Notice is £130 (discounted to £65 if paid within 14 days) and issued to the registered keeper of a vehicle. This penalty charge is set by a London-wide authority, to reflect a level deemed necessary in deterring driving contraventions. Drivers have the right to appeal any penalty, stating a legally valid reason for driving in the School Street.

To fairly enable drivers realising the changing conditions in the street and to give them the opportunity to find another mode or route of travel, the scheme would not be enforced during its first month of operation. Parking enforcement officers would show heightened presence in the surrounding area.

11. What about my privacy when using the street?

Every individual ANPR camera has a Privacy Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA), which is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. The fixed position ANPR camera is type approved by the Department for Transport and operates within the Surveillance Commissioners Codes of Practice. The ANPR camera is operated in a way that does not constitute surveillance and does not interfere with rights granted under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The camera focuses strictly on the traffic entry point to the street. It only uploads a short recording when a driving contravention is detected. The camera cannot be turned or used for any observation purpose.

12. What if I do not support the introduction of a School Street?

Tick the 'No' box on the enclosed questionnaire. If the school and the majority of residents in the road are against a scheme then it is unlikely to go ahead. It would be helpful if you stated why you oppose the proposal. If the majority is in favour of a scheme then there may still be opportunity to make amendments and address any concerns. If it is decided to proceed and develop a formal proposal, then there will be opportunity to object with comments to this formal proposals at a later Public Notice stage.