

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

10 May 2021

REPORT ON:

ACADEMY ROAD, GIFFNOCK – TEMPORARY ‘SCHOOL STREET’ PILOT

Report Updated 27 May to reflect revised launch date (section 1 & 5) and proposal for an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order summer / autumn 2021 (Section 10).

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide a summary on East Renfrewshire Council's (ERC) proposal to promote a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) on Academy Road, Giffnock to facilitate a temporary School Street pilot. This will come into force 7 June 2021 and be in effect between the hours of 08:30 – 09:30am and 2:30 – 3:30pm Monday – Friday during the school term. This will restrict most vehicular traffic outside Giffnock Primary School during proscribed times for a maximum period of 18 months.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Stakeholders are asked to note the contents of this report.

BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

3. “A School Street is where a road outside a school temporarily closes to motor vehicles. This opens the streets to families on foot, bike or scooter at drop off and pick up times. This can give families the space that they need to get to school safely and contributes towards a safer, cleaner and more pleasant environment. As well as increasing the likelihood that children will walk or cycle to school, this can potentially help reduce the number of car trips, reduce congestion at peak times, improve air quality, encourage exercise and reduce road traffic collisions.” (*Sustrans; School Streets for Social Distancing. Summary documents for school*).
4. ERC Roads & Transportation Service will promote a TTRO on Academy Road. This will introduce restrictions on vehicular traffic between the hours of 08:30 – 09:30am and 2:30 – 3:30pm; Monday – Friday during the school term.
5. The TTRO will come into force 7 June 2021 and will restrict vehicles from entering Academy Road from St Catherine's Road, as well as vehicles driving along Academy Road during proscribed times. This will in turn restrict vehicular access along Orchard Park due to current one-way arrangements.
6. Signage will be installed at the entrance to Academy Road which will indicate when the scheme is in operation and the nature of the exemptions.
7. Although vehicles will not be permitted to drive in or out during hours of operation, Blue Badge holders and other permitted vehicles, such as emergency services and those providing health and social care services, will be exempt from the prohibition.
8. Permits will be issued to affected residents who require access during restrictions. Although Giffnock Primary School staff are not exempt, provision for emergency staff access during restricted times will be facilitated.
9. Any offence committed during hours of operation would be considered a moving traffic offence and can only be enforced by Police Scotland. The penalty for ignoring the

prohibition is currently a £50 fine. Enforcement will be carried out by the police commensurate with their other duties.

10. ERC will seek to replace the TTRO with an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) in summer / autumn 2021. This reflects statutory considerations, specifically, the need to protect public health and facilitate physical distancing during COVID towards measures that make the environment safer at the start and end of the school day. The ETRO will be subject to consultation and subsequent Cabinet approval.

STATEMENT OF REASONS

11. The School Street trial represents a short term, temporary measure in response to current pressures arising from COVID-19 (with the need for parents and pupils to observe social distancing) and historical road safety concerns around Giffnock Primary School during pick up and drop off time.
12. Following community engagement in summer 2020, a number of street closures were identified as potential solutions to enable people to move around safely during COVID-19. This included feedback regarding social distancing concerns at Giffnock Primary School and a number of other “school related” issues relating to traffic, road danger and accessibility.
13. Prior to schools reopening in August 2020, discussions were held between Education and Roads & Transportation Services regarding the ‘return to school’ and key actions during COVID-19 pandemic. This included measures to discourage parents from entering the school property to drop off / collect children in order to minimise risks of onwards transmission. The knock on safety implications of parents congregating outside schools and on public Roads, while also observing social distancing guidelines, highlighted potential road safety issues.
14. In August 2020, ERC suspended parking on Academy Road to assist parents and pupils adhering to social distancing guidelines and sought to discourage pick up and drop off by car in order to mitigate road safety issues.
15. Although measures described above are considered to have some positive impacts on social distancing and road safety on Academy Road, following further monitoring and assessment, it was considered that a temporary School Street pilot would better serve the school community in order to adapt and renew in response to COVID-19.
16. As there is no precedent for School Streets in East Renfrewshire, this measure is being progressed as a temporary pilot project. The aim is to better understand practical, legislative and operational challenges, as well as key learnings to inform future guidelines and/or plans relating to school travel.
17. This measure is supported by recent and comprehensive research document, published by Edinburgh Napier University regarding school street closures and the positive impact on the perception of road safety, active school travel and the promotion of active travel in the wider community (<https://www.napier.ac.uk/about-us/news/school-street-closures>)
18. During the trial and following a period of consultation, ERC will assess feedback and evidence to inform any changes that may be necessary. Following the 18 month pilot a decision will be made whether measures should be made permanent, modified, or withdrawn. A decision on whether or not to phase out existing measures and reinstate parking on Academy Road will be made summer / autumn 2021.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

19. Finances - external funding to implement measures will be met by Sustrans Spaces for People programme. This will provide resource to commence and support the trial, however, no funding has been identified beyond the 2021/22 financial year to support continuation, modification or revocation.
20. Legal - measures will be progressed in line with statutory requirements associated with the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
21. Personnel - Existing staff (Roads & Transportation and Development Planning), including a new temporary and externally funded support officer.
22. Procurement – as per ERC guidelines.
23. Governance – Overall governance will follow structures outlined within [ERC Transport Response to COVID-19](#).

EQUALITY DUTY

24. Due consideration of the Equality (Scotland) Act 2010 and how measures may impact people with protected characteristics has been completed, with reasonable adjustments included as part of the supporting Equality Impact Assessment

CONSULTATION

25. ERC previously facilitated community engagement in summer 2020 to identify locations that may require temporary COVID response measures' - <https://erspacesforpeoplemap.commonplace.is/>
26. Since summer 2020 there has been ongoing dialogue with key school stakeholders - including Education Services, Giffnock Primary School Head Teacher and Giffnock Primary School Parent Council – as well as correspondence with local elected members and members of the community regarding issues and appropriate response measures.
27. Police Scotland have been fully consulted on proposals and have provided feedback accordingly via regular liaison meetings.
28. ERC will seek to promote measures and notify the local community through planned communication and engagement. This includes facilitating an ongoing community consultation during the course of the trial to actively seek feedback.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

29. ERC will continue to liaise with key stakeholders during the course of the trial. This includes investigating the feasibility of establishing a Giffnock School Street Working Group to encourage future partnership working between council, school, local stakeholders and the wider community.

IMPLICATIONS

30. ERC recognise that previous engagement has identified a number of other schools in East Renfrewshire with similar traffic-related issues. Calls for a wider rollout of School Streets in the area are therefore anticipated. Although ERC will consider requests for temporary pilot projects in other locations, this would require satisfying key criteria and be considered operationally and administratively manageable.

31. ERC recognise likely concerns regarding potential 'knock-on impacts', including possible displacement of traffic and parking issues in adjoining areas. To address this ERC will implement a monitoring plan supported by key monitoring objectives in order to provide quantitative and qualitative evidence to support future evaluation and gauge the success (or otherwise) of the scheme.

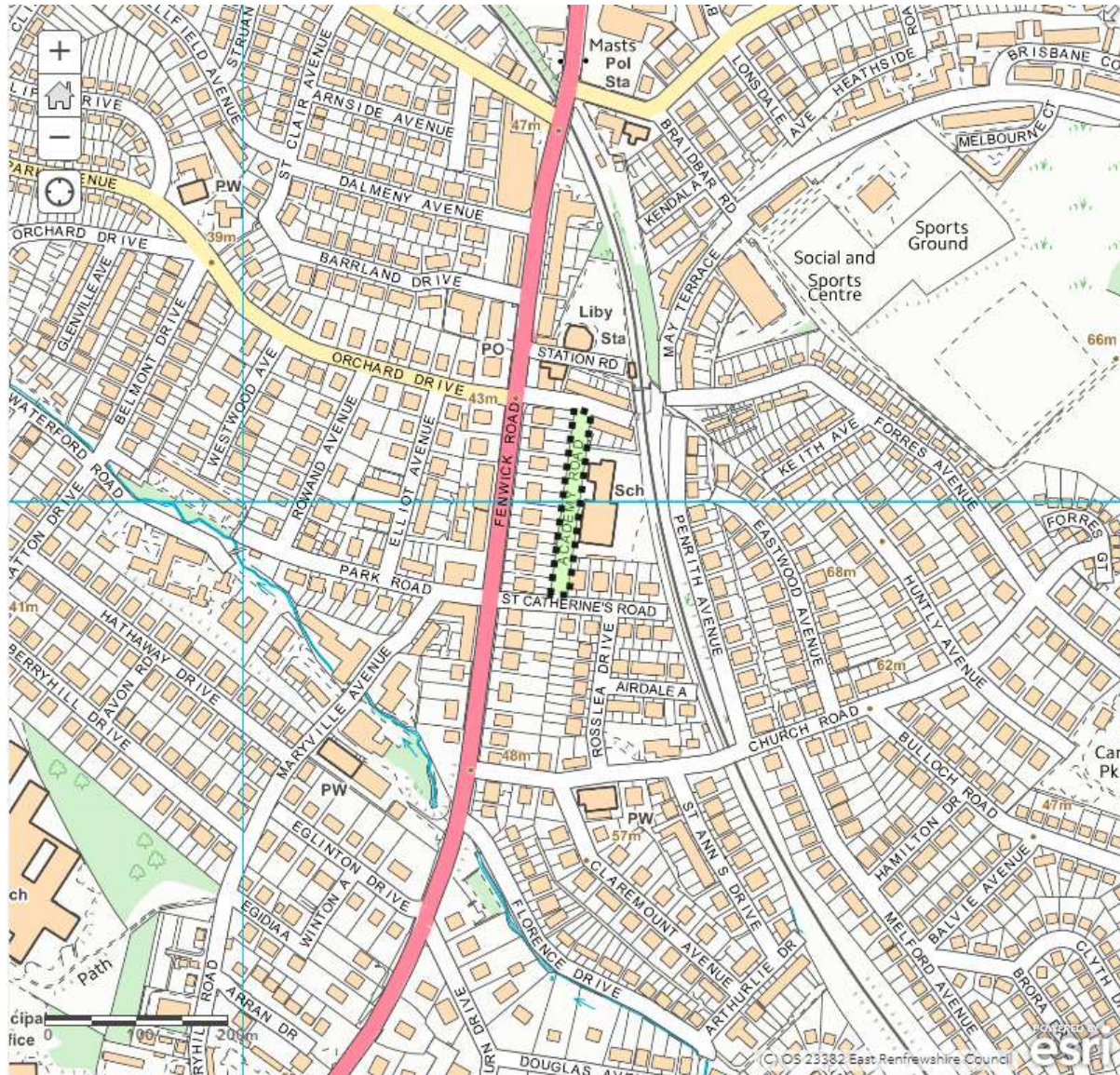


Figure 1: Academy Road, Giffnock School Street Pilot Location Plan