

SCHOOL SAFE HAVEN ZONE – REDWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Background:

Derby City Council has been awarded £776,150 of funding from the Department for Transport to deliver additional active travel measures across the city. As part of this work a number of schools have been identified across the city to test different interventions including the introduction of school streets, locally known as School Safe Haven Zones.

Across the country, 'School Streets' have been introduced to help promote cleaner air, reduce congestion, improve road safety and increase levels of activity.

'School Streets' are where a section of road outside a school is closed to motor vehicles for a set period at the start and end of the school day.

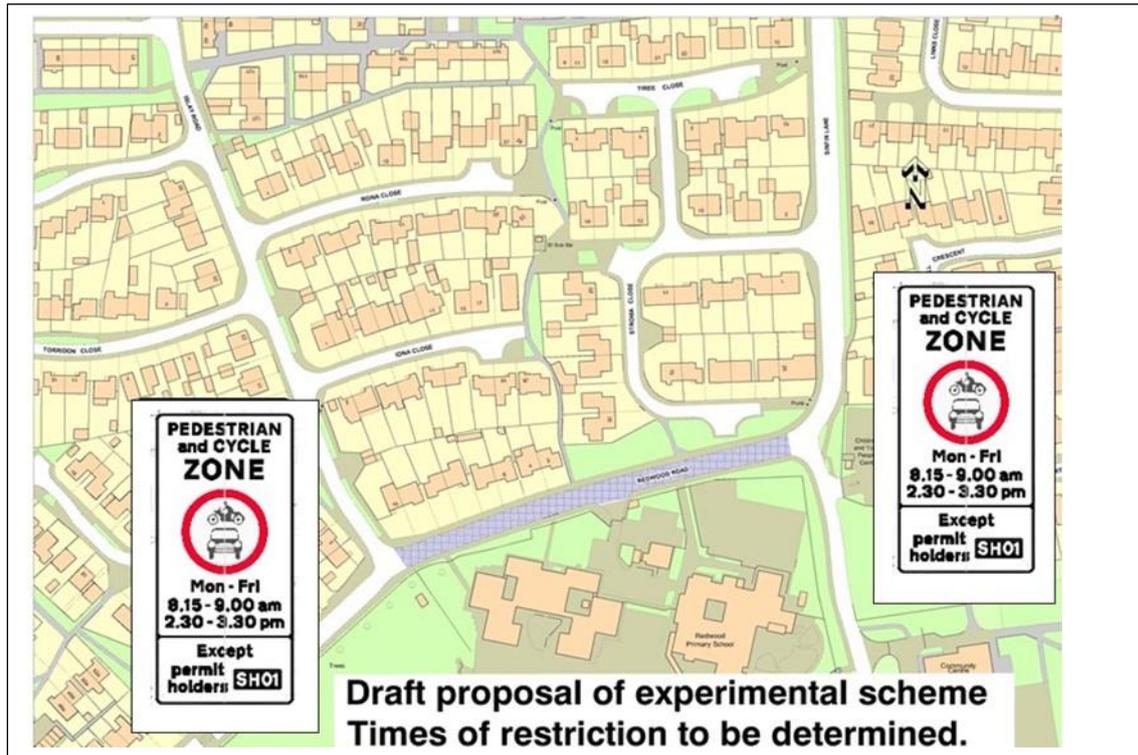
These have been well received and proved successful in helping to create a more pleasant environment for local communities and addressing the many safety concerns associated with high levels of car use near to school entrances.

Derby City Council intends to introduce this idea, starting with Redwood Primary School.

The Proposal

Following discussions with Local Councillors, Neighbourhood Officers, school representatives, and in consultation with local residents and parents (see consultation results below) the intention is to introduce the School Safe Haven Zone on Redwood Road. The Zone will become operational from Monday 22nd November 2021 and will be introduced on an experimental basis first. This means the new restriction will be temporary for a maximum period of 18 months before deciding whether it should be permanent. A period of public consultation will be undertaken as part of this process and will start when the Zone is introduced. Details of how to object and engage in the consultation will be made available as regulations require by street notice and public advertisement.

In brief, as shown on the drawing, the Zone will cover Redwood Road between Sinfin Lane and Islay Road. The restriction will be operational term time only, Monday to Friday from 8:15 to 9:00 in the morning and from 2:30 to 3:30 in the afternoon.



Consultation Update:

A preliminary consultation on the idea of introducing a school safe haven zone was conducted with local residents and parents of children attending Redwood Primary school. The consultation started in July and closed in early September 2021. We would firstly like to thank all those who took the time to complete the survey and comment on the proposals.

Taken together we received 28 responses mostly from local residents and parents but also from visitors to the area. A number of questions were asked about local traffic problems and 93% had experienced difficulties during school drop-off and pick-up times. Importantly, there was significant levels of support for the principles of the scheme. For example:

- 97% agreed there is a need to improve activity amongst children
- 93% agreed there is a need to remove traffic congestion near to the school entrance
- 85% agreed there is a need to improve air quality outside school
- 85% agreed there is a need to encourage cycling and 92% for walking
- 96% agreed there was a need to improve safety

However, several comments were also made. Many related to concerns about vehicle displacement within the area once the Zone becomes operational. The evidence nationally suggests the problem of displacement settles soon after the restrictions are introduced. However, concerns about the impact of the proposal on the local area is why the scheme is being introduced on a trial basis first. As

mentioned, the expectation is that any initial traffic difficulties will settle as parents adjust to the new restrictions. To support this process, measures are being taken to encourage parents to use the Sinfin Moor Park car park. There will be Council Officers on site to help direct traffic and manage the introduction of the Zone including additional enforcement when the new restriction is operational. Persuasion will be the initial response to encourage adherence, but fines will be issued to cover repeat offences.

Comment was also made about access for local residents and the possibility of being exempt from the restriction. Residents and local businesses who have a vehicle or vehicles registered to an address located within a School Safe Haven Zone can apply for an exemption. The exemption will give a legal right to drive the registered vehicle into the Zone during the scheme's operating times.

Special exemptions will also be available for blue badge holders requiring access to the Zone and carers for vulnerable residents living within the Zone.

Further information for those eligible for permits will be sent directly to local residents and parents. This will include details on how to apply and information on what documentation to submit. If you would like to know more please visit

<https://secure.mipermit.com/derby/Application/ModuleLander.aspx>

Benefits of the consultation – has anything changed?

Responses to the consultation helped decide the following:

- to introduce the Zone on a trial basis first to monitor vehicle displacement and the impact on the local area. A formal consultation will be carried out as part of the trial to help decide whether the Zone should become permanent;
- to change the start of afternoon restriction times. Briefly, the timings of the afternoon restriction have been altered to start a little earlier than originally proposed;
- to proceed with the trial following significant support for the aims of the proposal, and
- to use the Sinfin Moor Park car park to help manage and redirect school parking.