



BROMLEY CIVIC CENTRE, STOCKWELL CLOSE, BROMLEY BRI 3UH

TELEPHONE: 020 8464 3333

CONTACT: Stephen Wood
stephen.wood@bromley.gov.uk

DIRECT LINE: 020 8313 4316

FAX: 020 8290 0608

DATE: 14 July 2022

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held on Friday 15 July 2022

Details of oral and written questions submitted to this meeting for answer are attached.

4 CALL-IN: REVIEW OF SCHOOL STREETS (Pages 3 - 10)

Copies of the documents referred to above can be obtained from
<http://cde.bromley.gov.uk>

This page is left intentionally blank

Agenda Item 4

ECS PDS Special Meeting—Oral Questions from Councillors

15th July 2022

1) Question from Cllr Rebecca Wiffen:

As more young families move into Bromley, what measures are the Council going to take to encourage healthy, active lifestyles and active travel if they are ending School Streets

2) Question from Cllr Rebecca Wiffen:

If School Streets is permanently decommissioned, how will the Council work with Schools to improve active travel and healthy lifestyles?

This page is left intentionally blank

ECS PDS Special Meeting—Oral Questions from the Public.

15th July 2022

1) Question from James Hamilton:

You consulted local residents on whether they would favour a permanent School Street on George Lane. 58% of residents responded that they are in favour. Is it Council policy to ignore the express wishes of the majority of local residents in all areas of decision-making?

2) Question from Will Conway:

At the June 21st Environment PDS meeting officers said that they had consulted other councils regarding their school streets.

Could the Portfolio Holder please list all other Councils consulted, how many of them are continuing to run School Streets and how many of those are using ANPR cameras?

3) Question from Brendan Donegan:

The School Streets review document states ANPR camera enforcement for School Streets is not Bromley Council policy. Why is this?

4) Question from Brendan Donegan:

ANPR cameras used in School Streets elsewhere in London generate revenue, yet the Council's review document is silent on this point. Surely this information is vital for making this decision.

5) Question from Jane Dutton:

6.6% Bromley deaths are attributable to human-made air pollution so far this year (CleanAir in Cities app). School Streets are proven to reduce air pollution, improve learning outcomes and enable active travel for children. Without them, how do you plan to protect little lungs from air pollution?

6) Question from Parisa Wright:

Please will the council reconsider its focus on the negative minority and ensure "School Streets" remain an active part of Bromley's efforts to improve quality of life for all, e.g. school road safety, air pollution, active travel, and our asthma, obesity & diabetes crisis', and in turn safeguard our future by cutting carbon emissions.

7) Question from Mandy James:

On what grounds does Bromley Council think its results in the TfL STARS programme mean modal shift is taking place on the school run?

8) Question from Mandy James

What evidence can Bromley Council provide to show that its 'anti idling' campaign around schools has had an impact on air pollution at the school gates?

9) Question from Thomas Morton:

Given the overwhelming support for School Streets from local residents and the support of several Conservative Councillors, could the Council list the negative impacts that School Streets would have on children.

10) Question from Thomas Morton:

How is the Council going to help schools that want to have a School Street without the installation of ANPR cameras, and can the Council provide evidence of School Streets being successful without ANPR cameras.

11) Question from Ben Harvey:

Why is Bromley Council deciding not to support School Streets without having tried ANPR camera enforcement, and without detailed information about how ANPR camera enforcement worked in other boroughs?

12) Question from Ben Harvey

If Bromley Council is not going to actively support School Streets, what measures will Bromley Council commit to introducing to tackle air pollution and road safety on the school run, congestion caused by the school run, and childhood obesity?

13) Question from Richard Garvey

With the suspension of support for school streets, which measures is the Portfolio Holder proposing to reduce car trips and can they provide evidence that such measures are at least as effective as School Streets?

14) Question from Richard Gibbons:

LB Bromley Transport Strategy 2019 (LIP3), page 8

"The Council will focus initiatives to reduce the impact of air pollution in the areas of highest exceedance, primarily within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) or where vulnerable people may spend significant amounts of time, for example, schools."

The Portfolio Holder has praised the Council's Transport Strategy which states that it will focus on initiatives to reduce the impact of air pollution outside schools. Evidence shows that Schools Streets are such an initiative. What alternatives to School Streets can the Portfolio Holder offer that reduce road danger and toxic emissions from vehicles outside schools?

15) Question from Richard Gibbons:

Please list all schools in LB Bromley, their current TfL STARS status, i.e. Gold, Silver, Bronze, Engaged, Not Engaged; and indicate (a) if schools are on through or non-through roads; and (b) if road conditions outside school entrance would allow a School Street intervention, i.e. not on bus route?

16) Question from Sarah Gill-Schmitz:

Please will the council reconsider its focus on the negative minority and ensure "School Streets" remain an active part of Bromley's efforts to improve school road safety, reduce air pollution, increase active travel and in turn safeguard our future by cutting carbon emissions - as has been stated as a key Climate goal by Bromley council [LBB Net Zero Carbon Action Plan, Sept 2021]?

ECS PDS Special Meeting—Written Questions from the Public.

15th July 2022

1) Question from Anne-Marie Conneally:

Can the committee explain its decision not to support School Streets given that the main issues seemed to be a small group of complaints and some associated costs which could potentially be met elsewhere?

Bromley currently has 6 school streets identified (<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/cycling-walking-school/school-streets>) for 82 primary schools. Our neighbours in Croydon have 14 permanent and 21 under consideration across 72 primary schools.

1. Why is Bromley unable to support this if other boroughs can?
2. What other measure for our children does the council intend to take that focus on hub areas like schools rather than borough wide initiatives?

2) Question from Louise Clark:

In the Review of School Streets presented to the Environment Committee on 21 June the Council stated that one of the reasons they have not remained active is that no funding has been “allocated for the considerable cost of installing and maintaining cameras.” What calculations have the Council made on the extent to which ANPR revenues could offset the cost of installation and maintenance?

3) Question from Helen Brookfield:

School Streets are proven to reduce car journeys to school. Bromley Council’s Local Implementation Plan (LIP3) agreed it would “focus initiatives to reduce the impact of air pollution... where vulnerable people may spend significant amounts of time- e.g. schools “ and that a “key focus “ would be to “shift switchable short local trips away from the car” stating, “it will be necessary to reduce the impact of the school run by shifting school trips from cars to other modes”. If Bromley Council is not going to support School Streets then what are they going to do to reduce the number of car journeys to school?

4) Question from Laura Vogel:

Councillor Simon Fawthrop has asked the Portfolio Holder to list the costs of holding this additional meeting of the PDS committee. Could the Council also list the costs of not providing proper scrutiny, good governance and supporting a robust democracy on the Council?

5) Question from Laura Vogel:

Will the council state the increase in the number of cars on Bromley roads that we all endure during school run hours? What does the council propose to reduce school run traffic if it does not support school streets?

6) Question from Euan Pyle:

Does the council recognise that one of the best ways to reduce motor traffic is to make other forms of (more road space efficient) transport (ie cycling and walking) safer? And that School Streets actively make these modes of transport safer?

7) Question from John Blakely:

Please explain how the decision not to proceed with the School Streets programme will enable Bromley Council to reduce car use (currently the highest of all London Boroughs), reduce air pollution and increase road safety especially for children and vulnerable residents?

8) Question from Oje Egwaoje:

With the increasing number of families with young children moving into Bromley, what does the Council propose to support children travelling independently to school if they stop the roll-out of school streets?

9) Question from Steve Baynes:

Given the cessation of School Streets, what measure is the Council proposing to combat increases in pollution around schools? Given that childhood obesity is around 30%, ending School Streets appears to double down on harm to children, for the sake of removing minor inconveniences to drivers.

10) Question from Tara and Paul Kunert:

Will the council reject the recommendations of the report and instead resolve to roll-out school streets in the Borough for the benefit – improved health and wellbeing, better air quality, lower emissions – for all; in accordance with the wishes of the majority of residents, parents and children who voted in favour of the schemes; and in accordance with Bromley's stated policy of promoting active travel?

11) Question from Alessandro Giordo:

Bromley has the highest % of trips made by car in the whole of London at 53%, and a target within the Mayor's Transport Strategy to reduce this to 40%. Given the School Streets decision, can the Portfolio Holder now provide an indication of how this target will be reached?"

12) Question from Sian Stickings:

With child obesity levels rising, what specific steps will the Council take to encourage active travel to school if the roll-out of school streets is halted?

13)Question from Sian Stickings:

What pro-active measures is the Council taking to reduce children's exposure to health-endangering air pollution on their way to & from school?

14)Question from Rajeev Thacker:

A 2018 report noted the percentage of obese Bromley children doubled between first and last years of primary education. Has Bromley's Health and Wellbeing Board had sight of the school streets decision?

15)Question from Rajeev Thacker:

Air pollution at the school gates can lead to lifelong health implications. Has this been factored into the cost-benefit analysis of rolling out school streets in Bromley?

16)Question from Patricia Morgan:

What is the cost per household, say council tax Bill (Band D), of the annual running cost of each School Streets ANPR installation (Assuming the one-off set up costs are funded from reserves)? What percentage increase in council tax does this equate to?

17)Question from Patricia Morgan:

TfL serves Bromley residents who depend on the service to move around the Borough and London for work and pleasure. With the Government removing grants to support TfL, what revenue creation ideas would the Council support instead of ULEZ charges?

18)Question from Carolyn Heitmeyer:

At the Environment Committee meeting discussing the review of School Streets, the committee discussed £1m allocated to parks from Bromley's reserves. Why can Bromley Council find £1m for parks but no money to make journeys to school healthier and safer, and to give our children the chance to travel independently?

19)Question from Carolyn Heitmeyer:

The School Streets review notes that "a number of methods" were used to evaluate the temporary school streets. The review also refers to a survey of parents in Hayes. What external (i.e. from outside the borough) evidence did Bromley Council review?

20)Question from Jen McArthur:

The decision 'Review of School Streets' (21st June), recommends that School Streets are not actively rolled out due to resource implications. Why does Bromley Council choose not to use its sound financial position for the benefit of

the borough's children, since School Streets are an efficient way to reduce air pollution and road danger?

21) Question from Jamie Devine:

The World Health Organisation (WHO) informs us that children and babies are more vulnerable to air pollutants from combustion vehicles than adults because 'They inhale more air per unit of bodyweight' and 'Their brains are still developing, and neurotoxic compounds in air pollution can affect children's cognitive development.' Why won't the Council introduce this reasonable measure (School Streets) to protect its most vulnerable residents?

Reference: <https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/how-air-pollution-is-destroying-our-health/children-and-air-pollution>

22) Question from Valerie Crowdy:

ANPR camera enforcement is used for all School Streets in Islington (where 49% of schools have School Streets), Hackney (45%) and Bromley's neighbour, Lewisham. Bromley hasn't trialled ANPR for School Streets, on the grounds of cost, but elsewhere ANPR cameras generate revenue. Will Bromley Council now trial ANPR for School Streets.?

23) Question from Judith Ralphs:

I would like to ask the committee what robust evidence they have that more local residents do not want school streets rather than they support them? As a resident of Bromley can you tell me what factors they take in to account and take particular heed of when balancing improved air quality, safety of children, encouragement of healthy lifestyles such as walking with the inconvenience for drivers and cost to council when looking at the impact of school streets. What data do they use for this decision? Have some sort of impact assessment been undertaken be it environmental, health or financial or a balance of all these, if so please share with the meeting?