

Grasmere Primary School

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Tuesday 6th October 2020

Impact of local road closures

Dear Parent or Carer,

As you might know, the local road closures to reduce through-traffic and improve road safety in the Walford Road area have now been put into practice. This follows a long period of consultation whereby the results were 62.2% (2,321) of respondents being against the proposals, with 36.2% in support (1,350). You can read all about the consultation and the results here:

www.hackney.gov.uk/walford-road-area.

Please note that this is currently a temporary measure. As the council states:

The decision is to implement the scheme on an experimental basis using Experimental Traffic Orders that would last for a maximum period of 18 months.

*This gives **local residents and businesses the opportunity to have their say** on how the closures work in practice. All feedback will be taken into account before any decision is made on whether or not to make the closures permanent.*

The Experimental Traffic Order period of 18 months will allow for 12 months of traffic and air quality data to be collected (as 12 months is generally recommended as the appropriate period for collecting air quality data), and a further six months for that data to be analysed and evaluated alongside feedback from residents and any other information or representations about the impact of the Scheme.

The immediate effect has been, as the modelling predicted, an increase of traffic along Albion Road. To combat this, and protect the children in the playground from pollution [and following almost 18 months of discussion and pushing by the school], the council is putting in place a green screen. Once planning permission has been received, it is scheduled to be in place during half term. Although this would have been more beneficial to have in place before the road closures, at least it will offer protection to the school from November onwards.

To help the traffic situation, I would like to ask you to please **NOT PARK ANYWHERE ON ALBION ROAD** at any time please. This can obstruct traffic massively and cause idling

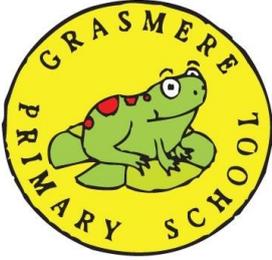


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engines which add to pollution levels outside the school. Indeed, we are offering cycle parking to children and families who need to travel a long way to get to school. If you drive, please look into the possibility of cycling. There are FREE cycle skills training for families and groups [here](#) and tips on how to cycle safely [here](#).

Also, due to increased traffic, I would also currently urge extra caution when crossing Albion road with your child. Unfortunately, the council have stated that there are no available Road Safety officers for either of the crossings near the school although I will continue to push for one.

In the meantime please note the council would like to hear about your experiences since the Walford road closures. Please post them [here](#) and click on the 'have your say' box.

Kind regards,

Nick



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