

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 13 April 2023
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Play Streets
Purpose of Report:	To seek approval to establish Play Streets at various locations across the Vale of Glamorgan.
Report Owner:	Report of the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing
Responsible Officer:	Director of Environment and Housing Services
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	<p>Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services</p> <p>Operational Manager, Engineering</p> <p>Principal Healthy Living Officer</p> <p>Play Officers</p> <p>Operational Manager, Accountancy</p> <p>Operational Manager, Property Committee Reports - Legal</p>
Policy Framework:	This Report is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial trial Play Street sessions have taken place at locations in the Vale of Glamorgan. Play streets allow roads to be closed to traffic for short periods of time to allow safe playing opportunities for children and families, and it is an initiative that has been widely implemented across the UK. It is proposed to extend this trial over a longer period of time in identified streets in Barry and Penarth from April 2023 to March 2024. Provided this is successful, the aim is to implement a policy allowing the scheme to be adopted across the Vale of Glamorgan. 	

Recommendations

1. That the Council endorses the establishment of Play Streets at suitable locations across the Vale of Glamorgan where there is support from the majority of local residents.
2. That the trial scheme detailed in the report be further developed into a pilot in identified streets and any issues be reported back to Cabinet. If no issues are reported, the full scheme can be implemented from April 2024.
3. That information relating to Play Streets be published on the Council's Website to allow residents to apply for their street to be incorporated into the scheme, with delegated authority given to the Director of Environment & Housing Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing to approve any authorised scheme.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To improve the safety and quality of play provision in the Vale of Glamorgan.
2. To allow any problems with the proposals to be identified and considered as necessary.
3. To allow residents to apply for their streets to become 'play streets' and approved as such if acceptable to the Council.

1. Background

1.1 Play streets (or 'playing out' sessions) are neighbour-led temporary road closures, creating a safe space for children to play freely together on their doorstep. The key features of the Play Street model are:

- Resident-led and organised.
- Short, regular road closures.
- Free, child-led play.
- All neighbours consulted and included.
- Road legally and safely closed to through traffic.
- Stewarded by residents.
- Car access at walking pace.
- Simple, 'normal' and not a street party!

1.1.1 In addition to the usual health and wellbeing benefits gained from playing, Play Streets also bring additional benefits and supports children's right to play:

- Children like to play near home where they do not need to rely on adults to take them anywhere
- Playing in the street increases community cohesion and a sense of collective

responsibility for children's wellbeing and safety

- Playing in the street allows for 'semi-supervised' play while parents and residents get to know one another
- The street is the 'starting point for all journeys' and street play is a step towards greater independent mobility – to visit friends, go to the park or walk to school
- Streets constitute the majority of public space in our communities and should be for everyone, not just cars.

- 1.2** Play streets have been introduced at various locations across the UK in recent years, and the Council's Play team together with the Highways and Legal team have been working on proposals to allow this provision in suitable locations across the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 1.3** Residents from different parts of the Vale have expressed an interest in closing their streets for play and have approached Play Wales and the Vale Play Team for support in doing so. Play Wales has previously been instrumental in supporting Cardiff Council to establish their Street Play initiative, which currently sees over 20 streets with Temporary Road Closures in place each month. Play Wales has worked closely with the Vale Play Team to engage with local communities and to develop a process for piloting Street Play in the Vale of Glamorgan, with the support of Local Authority partners.
- 1.4** A working group made up of representatives from the Vale Play, Highways, Legal, Active Travel and Play Wales has been established in response to the interest from local residents in the Vale. The Town and Police Clause Act 1847 has been agreed as the legislation to be used for Temporary Road Closures for the purpose of Street Play in the Vale of Glamorgan. If supported, it has initially been agreed the streets can apply for these closures on an annual basis.
- 1.5** Following interest from residents, trial play street sessions took place in the following streets:
 - Dunraven Street: Street Party Closures for Community Events in 2022 – 2023 – the successful street party closures to celebrate national events such as Jubilee and VE Day have sparked an interest amongst the residents for formal street closures for the purpose of children and families playing. Residents from this street are keen to be engaged in the 12-month pilot.
 - Romilly Road: an informal version of a Play Street -2022 – these did not include official closure of the road. Instead, the residents managed the space when traffic entered. Whilst this allowed some play activity, it was limited due to the traffic. They identified the need to close the road to ensure the safety of the children whilst playing out and to get the full benefits.

- Rectory Road Lane: celebrating National Play Day August 2021. Whilst the event was a success, the lead resident no longer has the capacity to organise sessions so this street is not included in the proposed pilot.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** The Street Play project is very much resident led, with the residents approaching the Council demonstrating their interest, as they will be leading in their respective streets. The adoption of a 'Play Street' policy will allow residents to request that their street becomes a safe place for children to play at certain times. Clearly not all roads are suitable to be closed at certain times and therefore the expertise of the Council's Highways Team will be required when considering applications to become 'Play Streets'.
- 2.2** Residents from the following streets have proactively engaged with, and had discussions with the Vale Play Team and Play Wales about being designated 'Play Streets':
- Romilly Road, Barry
 - Dunraven Street, Barry
 - Crossways Street, Barry
 - Masefield Road, Penarth
 - Augusta Crescent, Penarth
- 2.3** From the above list, Dunraven Street and Romilly Road have progressed to the application stage. Therefore, they will be the initial focus for the pilot. Any issues arising from these locations will be considered and reported back to Cabinet. If the pilot is successful, the aim is to use these as case studies to promote the Play Streets project, to showcase the benefits and encourage more streets in the Vale to apply. Maps of the proposed pilot streets can be found at Appendix A to this Report.
- 2.4** Further information about play streets is attached at Appendix B and at the following link.

10 Good Reasons for Street Play:

<https://playingout.net/why/10-good-reasons/>

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** In terms of the Council's Corporate Plan, this work links to the Well-being Outcome 4: An Active and Healthy Vale:
- 3.2** Play development work is a significant contributor to the Wellbeing Outcome of 'An Active & Healthy Vale', particularly to the objective of 'encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles'. Play development is also cross cutting

and can impact across all of the well-being goals including tackling inequalities, education/learning goals and enabling people to participate and contribute in their local communities. In delivering the actions identified in the Play Action Plan and the Vale Sport & Physical Activity Plan, the Council are also contributing to the national well-being goals, in particular 'a healthier Wales'.

- 3.3** Throughout the play planning and delivery process consideration is given to the five ways of working. Partnership working is an essential element to identify priority areas for development and to successfully implement the identified actions. Play Streets will only work with good partnership working.
- 3.4** Participation in play has known long term preventative health and wellbeing benefits and the inclusion of Play in key corporate and partnership plans highlight this contribution.
- 3.5** An integrated multi partnership approach to the development of play in the Vale of Glamorgan is the only way in which a service can be realistically delivered within the current climate, where resources within both the voluntary and statutory sector are reducing. This continues to be the basis on which play opportunities are being developed.
- 3.6** The Play team consult with existing and potential participants about future requirements through a variety of mechanisms including surveys, consultation at events and through links to partner groups /organisations. Consultation with targeted groups also take place to ensure the service delivered meets their needs and works to overcome barriers faced.
- 3.7** As part of the Play Sufficiency duty placed on all Local Authorities by Welsh Government, the Local Authority is asked to assess the following (Matter F8): 'The Local Authority should consider all the factors that contribute to children's access to play or moving around their community. As part of this duty, the Local Authority have an accessible and well-known way of arranging temporary road closures, to support more children to play outside their homes'. Progressing the development of a Street Play policy is one of the actions included in the Play Action Plan submitted to Welsh Government as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment process to progress this matter area.
- 3.8** We aim to make communities more play friendly by valuing and increasing quality opportunities for play throughout the community... The intended outcome will be more children playing and so enjoying the health, social, cognitive and emotional benefits that play provides. (Welsh Government, Wales: A Play Friendly Country document refers).

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** The introduction of 'Play Streets' should have a positive effect on air quality by reducing carbons admissions for the period of closure. They also provide

doorstep play opportunities which will reduce the need to travel further afield to access play.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** Apart from Officer time, there are no other additional costs to street play schemes. The respective sections included in the working group have agreed the administration process and the roles of each section within this. Officer time will be met from existing budgets.

Employment

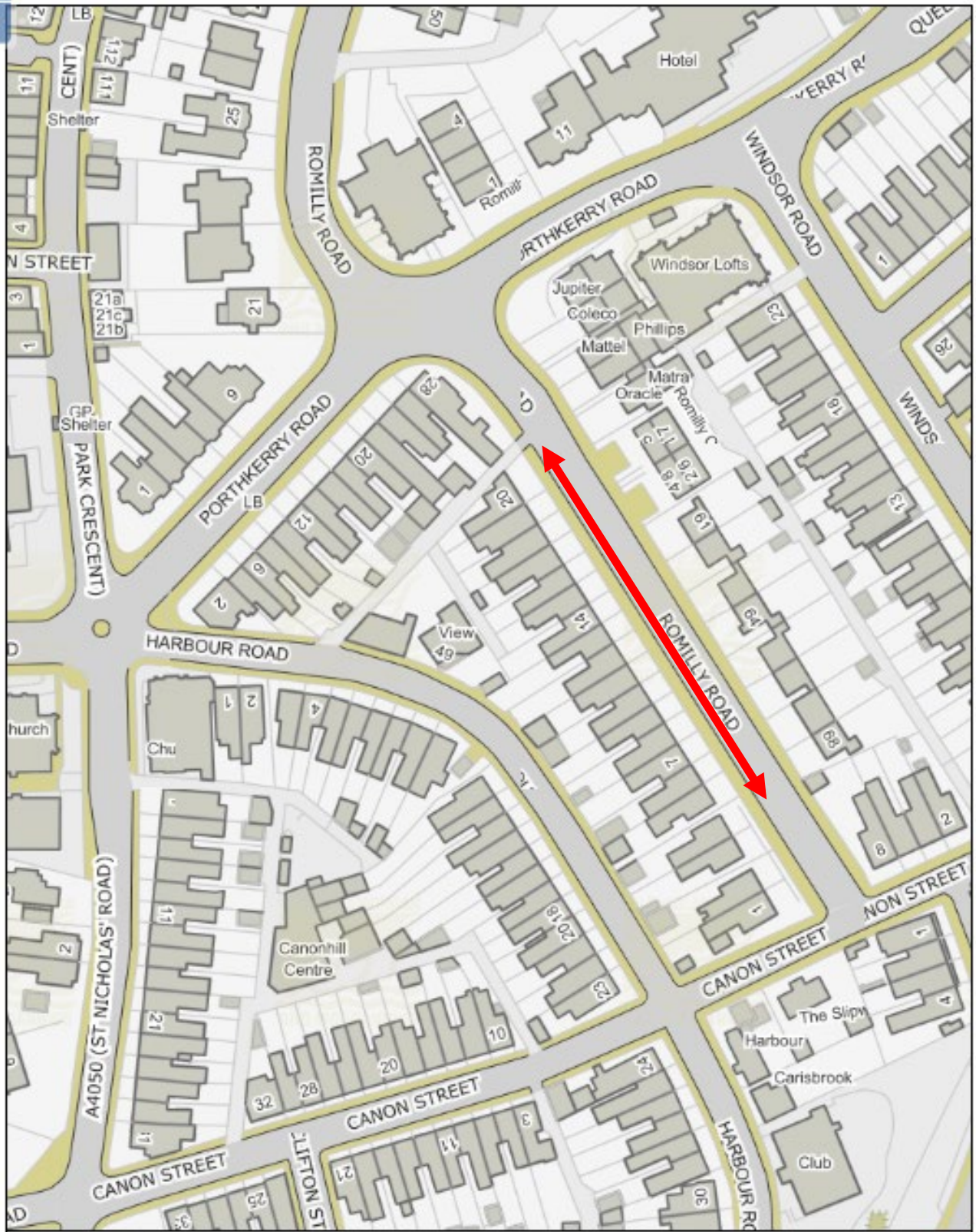
- 5.2** There are no direct employment implications for the Council.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3** The legal requirements to undertake road closures are taken in consultation with the Council's Highways section who have the necessary powers in place.

6. Background Papers

None.



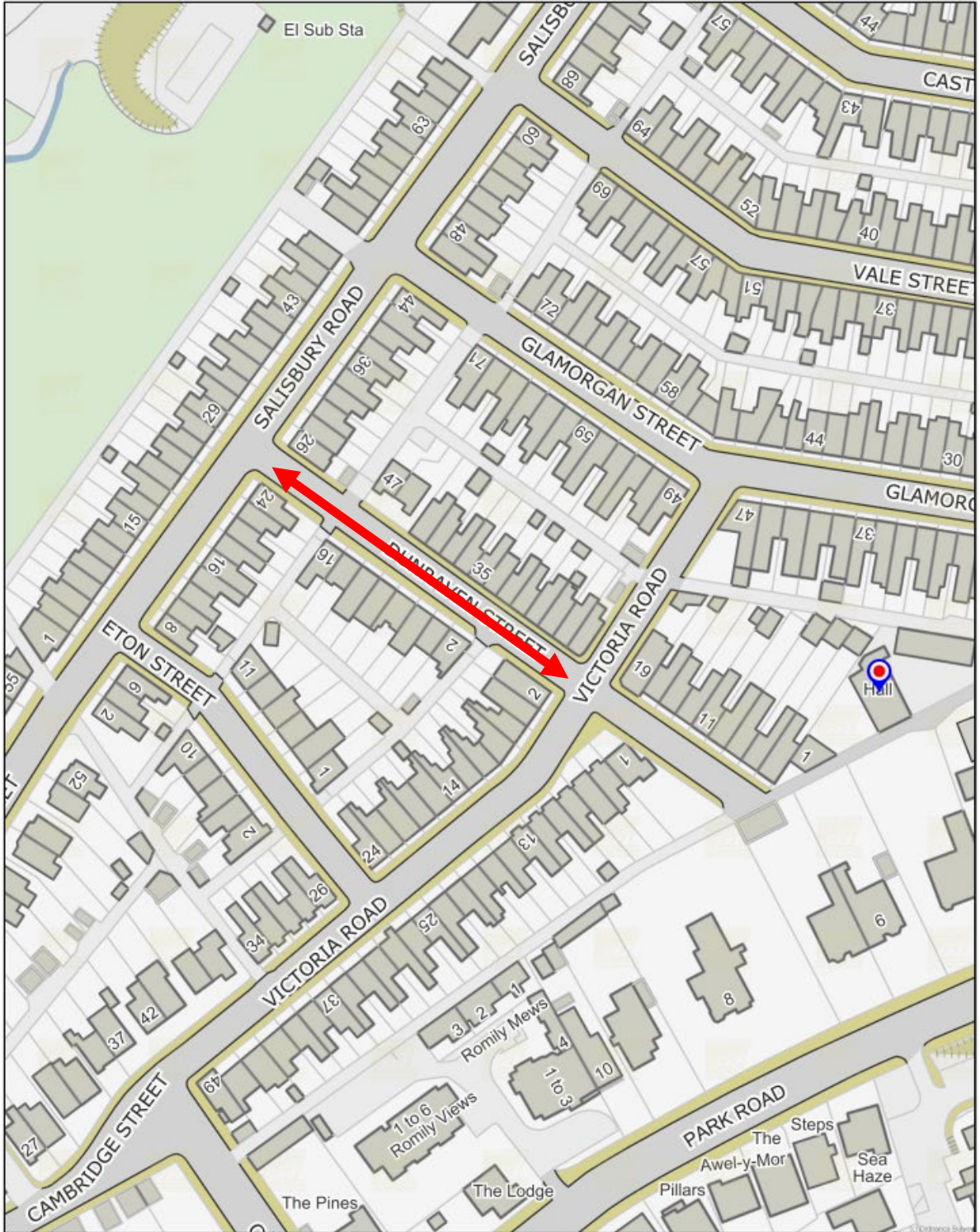
Romilly Road

N Scale: 1:1250

Printed on: 2023-03-14 11:04:53 by (anonymous)



© Vale of Glamorgan



Dunraven Street

N
Scale: 1:1250

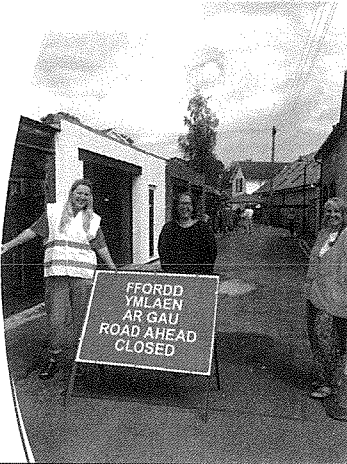
Printed on: 2023-03-14 10:10:16 by (anonymous)



© Vale of Glamorgan

Play Streets in the Vale of Glamorgan overview

- Resident approached Play Wales
- Play Streets working group established
- Operated pilot session- August 2021
- Other resident interest 2021-22
- Agreed pilot programme with 4 areas

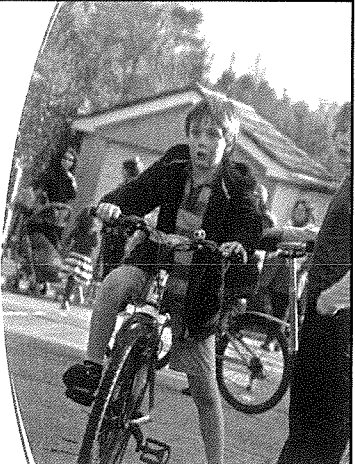


1

Legislation

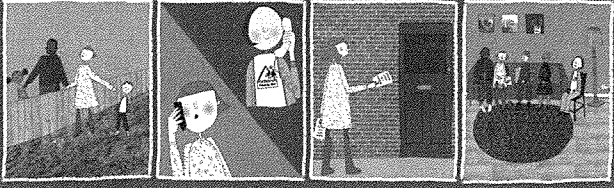
Town & Police Clause Act 1847

- No requirement for permanent signage.
- No advertising costs




2

step 1 talk to your neighbours...



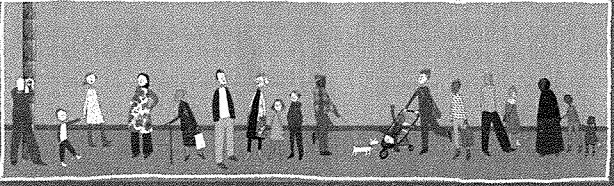
3

step 2 get permission & support...



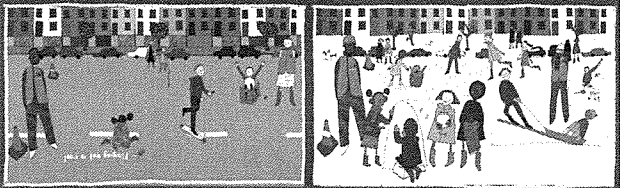
4

step 3 tell everyone...



5

step 4 play out...



6

How a play street operates

- Resident led initiative
- Residents apply for a 'Temporary Play Street Order'
- Closing the street to through traffic only, 2 hours once a month
- With closure falling on the same day time and week each month
- Access and egress continues under steward supervision
- Street closed to through traffic only
- Parents/carers are responsible for their children during the Play Street

7

Vale of Glamorgan Play Development Team and Play Wales-our roles

Vale of Glamorgan Network Management Team and Legal Team approve and process all temporary play street orders.

We will:

- Support residents through the application process
- Provide toolkit, letter templates, supporting information and partner links
- Provide signage & cones, hi-vis, small play kit, lanyards and information cards
- Attend first Play Street closure
- Support residents with monitoring
- Ongoing contact and support
- Continue discussions with Council departments

8

Informal meeting with residents

- Important to not miss this part
- Invite all residents within the closure point to an informal meeting
- Discuss with neighbours the idea of holding a play street and generate enthusiasm for it
- Use '10 good reasons for street play' postcards & 'How to organise playing out sessions on your street' booklet (hard copies available) to support with any questions.

10 good reasons for street play

1. Children need and have a right to play. It is vital for their physical, emotional and social development.
2. Children need to experience the play when they have their own space and freedom.
3. Children like to play near home where they don't need to rely on adults to take them anywhere.
4. Children need outdoor play opportunities. City and town centres are usually too small and noisy for this. Don't have residential areas to play in.
5. Playing on the street increases community cohesion and a sense of collective responsibility for children's welfare and safety.
6. Citizens (parents/families) volunteer, school and active age groups.
7. Through playing with situations independently, children can learn to solve social skills.
8. Playing on the street allows for 'learn equipped' play while parents and residents get to relax and unwind.
9. The street is the starting point for all journeys and street play is a vital means to more independent mobility for all who go to the park or work to school.
10. Ideas consider the majority of public space in our communities and should be to encourage 'not just play'.

9

Application process

- Expression of Interest
- Suitability check with Network Management Team
- Informal meeting with neighbours
- Complete 'Temporary Play Street Application', street map and formal consultation letter
- Provide a risk assessment for the street (with support)
- Recruit stewards to manage closure points and monitor the street
- Letter to residents confirming dates of closures

10

Street closure points

- Things to consider:
 - How much of the street do you want to close?
 - Note down the house numbers of where the closure points start and finish (both sides of the street)
 - Is there lane access or alleyways?

11

Application & formal consultation letter

- Council officers require minimum 6 weeks notice to process applications
- Applications run from April 2023 until March 2024
- Complete application fully
- List each closure date and time individually on the application
- Complete the formal consultation letter at the end of the application and send to all residents, this informs them of the application going in
- Include a map of street showing closure points
- Send application and map to (to be confirmed)

12

What happens next?

- Whilst application is being processed, a second Play Street meeting is required
- Next meeting includes:
 - Writing the risk assessment
 - Recruiting stewards and their role
 - How to lead vehicles through safely
 - Delivery and storage of signage and kits

Tips & reminders

- Most effective Play Streets have a resident Play Street group
- Play Development Team/Play Wales and can help with any printing of consultation letters, etc.
- Play Wales will provide hard copies of toolkits

