

Islington Council Play Street Guide and Conditions

Introduction

Play streets give local children a safe and secure environment to play outdoors in the street near their home for a few hours. Children and families in Islington are set to reclaim the streets, thanks to a new scheme that closes selected streets to through traffic, turning them into temporary play streets.

This is a step-by-step guide to organising regular Play Street sessions on your street. This is where neighbours formally close their road to through traffic for up to three hours to enable children to play. Residents and visitors will continue to have access rights. No activity requiring any form of license (under the Licensing Act 2003) may be undertaken during street closures. To avoid disappointment, please ensure the terms and conditions set out in this document are adhered to.

Some roads within Islington are, for a variety of reasons not suitable to be used as Play Streets due to their nature and/or purpose (e.g. bus routes). To ensure traffic flows freely and safely on surrounding roads, the Council will publish and periodically review a list of roads/streets where play streets will not be allowed. It should also be borne in mind that, due to the need to provide traffic with alternative routes, it may not be possible to close your road if there are other road closures in the area. Quiet residential streets and/or cul-de-sacs will be deemed more suitable, compared to other roads.

There will be a number of things to consider before you make a formal application for a street closure;

1. **Getting your neighbours on board**

Before you submit a 'Play Street' application, you will need to invite your neighbours to a meeting. It is vitally important to make sure that the majority of all households on the streets to be affected support your proposed road closure, as without their support, your application will be turned down. Do make sure they are informed and have a chance to be involved/raise concerns

Briefly, the main purpose of this meeting should be to;

- Share the idea
- Discuss any questions or concerns
- Assess the level of interest/support

- Agree suitable dates - a road closure application normally takes not less than 6 weeks to process Council recommends setting a date at least 2 months from the date you agree to submit your application. Note that Play Street related road closures can be for no more than 3 hours at a time. Applications are only processed four times a year on **30 January, 31 March, 30 June and 31 August**.
- Find volunteers and discuss roles - Play Street sessions have worked best in other boroughs with a strong volunteering commitment from residents. Volunteering roles include an organiser/s and Marshalls during the sessions to maintain safety for everyone

2. Permission and Agreement

Applications will only be accepted if they are made on the appropriate form. Guidance on how the form can be obtained can be found on the Council's website [here](#). As part of the application process, proof will be required that local residents (neighbours) have been consulted and that a risk assessment has been made. A significant number of households must agree to the scheme and if organisers cannot prove that neighbours are in favour, then the scheme will not be able to go ahead.

2.1 Objections and Concerns

All residents that may be impacted by the road closure sought must be contacted by the organiser in writing. An example letter of such contact is attached to the official application form. People may have objections or concerns at this point especially if they did not attend the start-up meeting. If the concerns are insurmountable then the closure will not be able to go ahead. Even where permission may have been given, Council reserves the right to revoke such permission.

2.2 Insurance and liability

Under no circumstances will the Council be held liable for any injury, loss or damage arising from the organisation of an event. Any claims made against the Council with regard to damage or injuries caused by play street events will be passed on to the relevant organiser(s). Play Street organisers should be aware that there may be circumstances in which they would be held liable for any accidents. Council encourages everyone involved to be sensible and respectful about other people and their property. It is strongly recommended that organisers should consider taking out Public Liability Insurance.

2.3 Noise Nuisance

Consideration should be given to those living or working nearby and excessive noise should be minimised.

2.4 Fire safety

Free fire safety advice may be obtained from the fire service.

3. Organisation

3.1 Publicity

Organisers may wish to publicise the event by distributing notices, posters, leaflets and flyers. The Council recommend keeping publicity within your own street and perhaps a few directly neighbouring streets.

3.2 Signage

It will be a requirement that official highways 'Road Closed' signs are used to inform drivers that a legal road closure is in force. It may be necessary to use traffic cones as well as the signs. The appropriate signs will be provided and erected by the Council. If any cones or portable signs are used as well, organisers will be responsible for placing them on the highway and storing them.

3.3 Risk Assessment

The need for a risk assessment is to ensure that the event goes according to plan without any incidents. It can never be guaranteed that an incident will not happen but careful planning can reduce the likelihood. All hazards that are either present or can be reasonably expected to arise will need to be identified. 'Hazards' are things with the potential to cause harm and while 'Risk' is how likely it is for something to happen because a hazard is present. Though there is no set way of writing a risk assessment, it is good practice to clearly document what the hazards and risks are, how serious they may be and what action will be taken to reduce or eliminate them.

Please remember:

- a) It is the organiser's responsibility to do the risk assessment and Council will not accept responsibility for it.
- b) More information about 'play street' risk assessments can be obtained from London Play www.londonplay.org.uk.

4. The event

4.1 Marshalls

It is strongly advised that marshals are briefed before the event begins. The marshals have an important job and should be clear on what their respective roles are. All those acting as marshals must wear hi-visibility clothing.

Some drivers may occasionally be unhappy, or even aggressive, so it is important the marshals are capable of dealing with this and that they know how to get help if needed.

4.2 Closing the road

Road closure signs must be placed in such a way that the writing on them is clearly visible to the approaching drivers. Once in place, the marshals should not leave their posts except to let vehicles of residents or visitors in and out. After the road is closed vehicles (except emergency vehicles) are breaking the law if they go through. However, if a driver lives on the road or is visiting a person living on the road and wants access in or out, they must be granted permission to do so.

4.3 Clearing up

The Council will require that portable signs and cones are removed and all rubbish is cleared before the road is re-opened.

Links to Resources

Useful information on setting up a play street closure can be found on;

<http://playingout.net/>

www.streetparty.org.uk

www.londonplay.org.uk/

Data Protection

Any personal information you give us is held securely and will be used only for council purposes. Information that was collected for one purpose may be used for another council purpose, unless there are legal restrictions preventing this. Islington may share this information where necessary with other organisations, including (but not limited to) where it is appropriate to protect public funds and/or prevent fraud in line with the National Fraud Initiative guidelines.

Using your information in this way allows us to deliver more efficient services that can be tailored to your individual needs and preferences. All personal information is held in strict confidence. The use of data by the Audit Commission in a data matching exercise is carried out with statutory authority under its powers in Part 2A of the Audit Commission Act 1998