

To Healthy.School.Streets@camden.gov.uk; Jon Legge

## **Five Healthy School Streets permanency consultations Jan 2022**

1. Sandall Road – Camden School for Girls
2. Crogsland Road – Haverstock School
3. Hollybush Vale UCS Junior and Hampstead Parochial School
4. Marsden Street – Rhyl Primary School
5. William Road – Netley School

This response to the consultation on the above proposals from Camden Council is from Camden Cycling Campaign, the local borough group of London Cycling Campaign. We represent the interests of cyclists living or working in Camden and aim to expand the opportunities for all to cycle safely in the borough. We have discussed this consultation in our committee by email.

In principle we support all proposals to restrict motor traffic on streets outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times, making the roads safer, improving air quality and encouraging parents and children to walk, cycle or scoot.

We are concerned that at all of the schools except Haverstock, the closure times may not be long enough. People could arrive by car before 3 pm for example and then wait for children to emerge and we understand that this would not be prevented by the ban on motor vehicles.

**'Hands up' surveys:** The consultations on making the pre-Covid school streets schemes permanent, e.g. Gospel Oak School, included detailed before and after 'hands up' surveys with pupils. We believe that the potential effects of introducing a school street on travel behaviour are very important. While we recognise that schools are running under great difficulties due to the pandemic, we ask Camden to encourage all schools to carry out these surveys. We have returned to this issue in detail below.

**Increase of motor traffic in nearby roads:** We also note that at two of the schools, Rhyl and UCS Junior, motor traffic had increased on nearby roads. See our comments below.

### **1. Camden School for Girls on Sandall Road**

We support:

Permanently implementing the Healthy School Street restriction on Sandall Road (Mondays to Fridays during school term time between 8am-9am and 3pm - 4pm).

**'Hands up' survey:** we can find no reference to this in the monitoring report.

### **2. Haverstock School on Crogsland Road**

We support:

Permanently implementing the Healthy School Street restriction on Crogsland Road (Mondays to Fridays during school term time between 8.00-10.00am and 2.00-4.00pm )

**'Hands up' survey:** We see that Camden plans to work with the school to carry out a survey with pupils during the consultation period and look forward to seeing the result in the consultation report.

### 3. UCS Junior and Hampstead Parochial School on Hollybush Vale

We support:

Permanently implementing the Healthy School Street restriction on Hollybush Vale (Mondays to Fridays during school term time between 8.00am-9.30am and 3pm-4pm)

**No alternative to being dropped off by car?** We strongly object to the statement which is contrary to Camden's policies on active travel:

"UCS Junior School is an independent school, with a large amount of pupils travelling over 3 kilometres to attend, therefore many may have no alternative to being dropped off/picked up by car."

These pupils should be encouraged to cycle or to use public transport. UCS school is well served by buses and is close to Hampstead tube station.

**Park and stride:** The report notes:

"Officers will work with the school, and the NW3 Green School Run group to identify local 'park and stride' drop off points for those parents/carers of pupils travelling long distances, in order for them to park at a suggested site close to the school, and walk the rest of the way."

Driving to the drop off point will cause all of the usual problems associated with private car use including making the roads less safe for people that walk or cycle. We therefore believe that the 'park and stride' solution should be a last resort to be used only by families who would have great difficulty using public transport.

**'Hands up' survey:** We see that Camden plans to engage with Hampstead Parochial School and UCS Junior School to find out how the scheme has impacted the way that pupils travel to school and will be encouraging them to carry out a 'hands up' survey with pupils. We look forward to seeing the result in the consultation report.

**Increase of motor traffic in a nearby road:** It is concerning that Holly Hill had an increase of 26% in traffic levels during the morning restrictions. Since UCS Junior School has an entry in Holly Hill, we suggest extending the scheme to include Holly Hill.

### 4. Rhyl Primary School on Marsden Street

We support:

Permanently implementing the Healthy School Street restriction on Marsden Street (Mondays to Fridays during school term time between 8.30-9.30am and 3.00- 4.00pm)

**'Hands up' survey:** We see that Camden plans to engage with Rhyl Primary School to learn more about how the Healthy School Street scheme has affected the way pupils, parents and staff travel to school. But it will be disappointing if a before and after hands up survey is not produced.

**Increase of motor traffic in a nearby road:** According to the monitoring reports the motor traffic increased in Rhyl Street and Talacre Road during the house of operation. We therefore suggest that the scheme be extended to include Rhyl Street and a section of Talacre Road e.g. between Rhyl and Marsden Streets.

## 5. Netley School on William Road

We support:

Permanently implementing the Healthy School Street restriction on William Road (Mondays to Fridays during school term time between 8.20am-9.20am and 3pm-4pm)

**'Hands up' survey:** We were pleased to see the results of a 2021 'Hands Up' survey and that only 8% of the (175) students surveyed travelled to school by private motor vehicle. Previous surveys of over 400 students had shown a gradual decrease in travel by private motor vehicle from 13% down to 5% (in 2019). It would be interesting to see the result of a wider survey (of ~400 students) and to find out whether the percentage travelling to school by private motor vehicle is smaller.

Please acknowledge receipt of this response. We would be very happy to discuss any aspect of our comments; contact details are below.

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