

REPORT FROM: Director of Place

TO: Colne and District Committee

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IMPLEMENTING PLAY STREETS IN COLNE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To outline the concept of Play Streets and explore the feasibility, benefits and requirements for implementing a Play Streets scheme in Colne.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) The Area Committee notes the considerations for Play Streets and suggested next steps for implementing such a scheme in Colne

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To enhance the opportunity for safe, outdoor play on residential streets in Colne

ISSUE

Introduction

Play Streets offer a low-cost, high impact opportunity to transform residential streets, supporting the wellbeing of children and bringing communities together. It's a community-led initiative that temporarily closes residential streets to through traffic, creating safe spaces for children to play and for neighbours to connect. These events promote physical activity, social interaction and a stronger sense of community.

Alternatively, the greening of unadopted back streets could have a similar effect, creating a safe space for children to play. However, with back streets, alley gates may be needed which would increase cost. But although alley gates could protect the scheme, they could also be deemed as excluding, other children in particular. Any alley gate model would need to be part of the consultation.

While existing facilities such as play areas and recreational facilities provide valuable outdoor play spaces, they are fixed locations. Play Streets offer a flexible, community-driven complement by bringing play opportunities directly to residential areas.

Benefits of Play Streets

There are many advantages to implementing Play Streets in Colne:

- **Enhanced Physical Activity:** Encourages children to engage in active play, contributing to healthier lifestyles.
- **Community Cohesion:** Fosters stronger relationships among neighbours through shared activities and collaboration.
- **Safe Play Environments:** Provides secure, traffic-free spaces for children to play close to home and helps improve local air quality.
- **Empowered Communities:** Encourages residents to take an active role in shaping their local environment.

Implementation Considerations

To successfully introduce Play Streets in Colne, Colne Area Committee will need to consider the following:

1. **Local support-** engage residents, schools, youth groups and community organisations in Colne to build grassroots interest. Conduct resident surveys to gauge demand. The PBC Engagement Officer (Policy Team) can provide support with this element of the scheme.
2. **Street selection-** determine suitable streets for the scheme (residential with low through-traffic and accessible for emergency vehicles or an unadopted back street). Colne Masterplan could also help in identifying suitable streets/ pilot areas for Play Streets. It is worth noting that for unadopted highways, no LCC involvement is needed, but a Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) or a closure through the Town Police Clauses Act (TPCA) will be required. PBC Engineering Service will be able to advise on what is needed, depending on the street status, and direct to the appropriate support.
3. If back street 'greening' were to be considered with the likes of grass, raised beds/trees etc, discussions would need to be held with Waste Services regarding impact on refuse collection. Consideration would also need to be given to impacts of residents moving on and abandoning any vegetation or structures.
4. **Work with PBC (Engineering Services) and LCC (Highways) to help secure:**
 - Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs), if required
 - Insurance and liability requirements
 - Any required signage or barriers
5. **Volunteers and training.** Local volunteers will need to steward the event and liaise with residents. Training and safeguarding guidance may be necessary.
6. **Funding.** Although Play Streets offer a low cost play space, there will be some costs involved. Depending on the nature of the scheme, if it's a residential street, there may be costs incurred, such as for signage. Any back street Alley Gating scheme would be more costly to take account of alley gates and maintenance and any 'greening' measures.

Whichever model is pursued though residents would need to be signposted to potential funding streams.

Suggested next steps for Colne Area Committee

1. Community Consultation – Identify interest and potential pilot streets and determine model for Play Streets (residential street or back/ alley gating scheme)
2. Engage Stakeholders- Meet with PBC (Engineering) and LCC (Highways) for procedural support
3. Secure funding for a Play Street pilot
4. Pilot a Play Street- Run a test event in Summer 2025
5. Evaluate and Expand- Use feedback to build a regular programme

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: Play Streets will help improve health and wellbeing of children, a key health priority for Pendle, and aligns well with Pendle's Health & Wellbeing plan.

Financial: There would be costs associated with Play Streets such as officer time associated with the scheme. There could also be upfront capital for any barriers/signage/cones. Insurance would be covered by PBC public liability, subject to a documented Robust Risk Assessment

Legal: None arising from this report

Risk Management: None arising from this report

Health and Safety: Play Streets will help deliver safer streets

Sustainability: Play Streets helps create greener, low carbon neighborhoods

Community Safety: Play Streets can help reduce ASB by creating vibrant, residential areas

Equality and Diversity: Play Streets helps create opportunities for outdoor play for all.

APPENDICES

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS