



We think play streets are great - not just for children but for the whole community. The evidence available supports this.

But some people find the idea of children playing in the street worrying. In our experience, most change their minds once they see a play street in action. We know of more than one early opponent who went on to become a staunch supporter. But in the early stages of planning it can help to have some answers to common concerns and objections. Here are a few...

But there's a park down the road!
We're all for visits to the park – but they often require an adult escort and the kids you meet there may not live nearby. Play streets allow children to play regularly outside their front doors – fostering independence and allowing them and their parents to build friendships with neighbours.

I've never heard of this!
Legislation for play streets was first passed into English law in 1938. There were more than 700 play streets in England and Wales during the 1950s but the rise of private car ownership spelt their decline. Until now of course!

Why should I stop driving my car?
Play street residents can drive in and out at any time during sessions - they are escorted at walking pace for safety.

My street will become a magnet for unwelcome visitors
If anything, play streets make it more difficult for outsiders to slip past unnoticed. Some parents are always out on the street during the sessions, neighbours get to know each other better and it actually becomes easier to spot strangers and monitor their behaviour.

Kids will think it's ok to play on the street at other times
Give children - and their parents - a bit of credit here! It is very clear when play street sessions are actually in progress – parents will tell their children, and the street will transform with other children, wardens and road blocks. Play streets also provide a great excuse to talk to kids about road safety.

My car/property will get damaged
We promote the use of inflatable balls and other toys which will not damage property – and have not heard of any problems arising on streets.

NEED HELP? CALL US ON 0203 384 8510; EMAIL INFO@LONDONPLAY.ORG.UK OR VISIT WWW.LONDONPLAY.ORG.UK