



Most councils ask that a majority of your neighbours are happy for a play street to go ahead before they will agree to it. So you will need to consult with everyone on the street.

This can feel a bit daunting if you don't know many of your neighbours. But if you go with an open mind and plenty of information to hand, it is likely to be the beginning of a beautiful new relationship with your street and the people who live on it. Here are our top tips for consultation.



First send a friendly flyer

A brief flyer explaining what a play street is and how it will benefit your street is a great start. It should have a nice colourful photo; details of how to contact organisers; and where to go for more information. London Play has templates that you can adapt.

Offer to meet face to face

Invite your neighbours (via your flyer) to an informal meeting on the street to talk through ideas and plans. Be prepared - have an idea of what's involved; what the benefits of play streets are; and answers to some common concerns. All found in London Play's Guide to Play Streets.

Visit a neighbouring play street

If there is a play street already running nearby, approach the organisers to see if you and your neighbours can get an invite to their next session. Seeing a play street in action and chatting over a cuppa with those involved is a great way to ensure people know what they're signing up for and feel good about it too.

Going door to door

Most councils need evidence that you have consulted neighbours directly so you will need to collect signatures of support (or objections). Ideally pick a time which fits with your proposed play street timings; bring leaflets and a smile!

Get a few people inside

If you can recruit a small group of supporters to help you consult - ideally representing a cross-section of people on the street - it will help residents see that play streets are about everyone.

Acknowledge people's concerns

Those who have never seen a play street before can have very real fears about it. Noise, lack of access, damage to property and unwanted visitors are a few common worries. Most are based on a lack of understanding about what's involved and can be dealt with by taking time to provide more information and sometimes making small compromises on timings, frequency or simply agreeing that only soft balls will be used!