Riverside School Streets Steering Group Meeting

**Date:** 30.11.21

**Venue:** Riverside Bowling Club

**Present:**

Amanda Fox, Riverside Primary School parent
Kate Joester, Living Streets Scotland (note taker)
Chris Thompson, Living Streets Scotland
Joan Murphy, chair of Riverside Community Council
Hazel Simpson, Riverside Primary School parent
Hazel Spencer, teacher at Riverside Primary School
Kathryn Anderson, Riverside Primary School Parent Council
Sue Donaldson (attended virtually), vice chair, Riverside Community Council
Susan McDougall, transport planning officer, Stirling Council

(These notes to be read in conjunction with the circulated ToR, project plan and timeline)

Attendees talked about their perspectives on and previous involvement in traffic and parking issues around the primary school, including:

* Ongoing complaints received by the community council about parking, poor driving and impact on natural environment. Several “near misses”, community anger.
* Parents share annoyance about anti-social parking by a minority
* School already does lots of work on active travel and are keen to support this scheme

SM explained the scope and timeline for the project and the involvement of the working group, as well as previous consultation on parking permits which was rejected. SM is keen to use a variety of approaches to make the trial closure a success, including Park and Stride, monitoring air quality, and has approached Paths for All to discuss funding for developing the data, which can also develop the Community Parking Management Plan in next financial year. However, at present the School Streets project is the focus.

Everyone was keen to move forward quickly, but SM emphasised that we will need to develop a particular proposal for consultation and trial in the summer term.

Lots of work has already been done (with school around COP26, air quality monitoring, data due soon on Spaces for People new speed limit) community members keen not to start from a blank slate and ignore this work

**ACTION**: SM to find air quality monitoring data and share with the group

The school streets will be a tight boundary around the school as the police need to be able to enforce it.

CT explained Living Streets’ experience with school streets, and that implementing WOW (walk to school scheme) in a school first, then data, research, trial and implementation of closures has been highly effective elsewhere – only a couple of trials have not continued to implementation.

There was a discussion about enforcement and behaviour change, ways to make walking desirable and fun – Beat the Street, Park and Stride, other options. It’s important that the street be presented as more than “closed and empty”.

Concerns expressed about the effect of the closure of Lovers Walk by Network Rail next year. Even when open, it is not of high enough quality for a full safe active travel route into Riverside, so Park & Stride may be a key part of plans.

There will be a wider parking survey in April to capture the “new normal”.

JM asked on behalf of the community council about what is happening to the £34,000 allocated to the consultation. SM explained that most of this is going to Living Streets to carry out the consultation work, and that this is a fairly modest amount for the scale of the consultation.

KJ briefly introduced the separate 20 Minute Neighbourhood project, funded by the Scottish Government, which will use the School Streets project as a core to do further consultation in Riverside about travel and use of place, adding value to the local work as well as increasing knowledge about how 20 minute neighbourhoods work in practice.

The steering group will meet again during the consultation period, in early 2022.