

Meeting of:	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Thursday, 11 July 2024</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Environment and Regeneration
Report Title:	Permanent Traffic Regulation Order – School Street Closure Dryden Road, Penarth
Purpose of Report:	To agree to make the experimental school street closure on Dryden Road for Fairfield Primary School, Penarth a permanent order.
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services
Responsible Officer:	Miles Punter – Director of Environment and Housing
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Accountant Neighbourhood Services and Building Committee Reports – Legal Operational Manager – Engineering Local Ward Members for Cornerswell, Penarth
Policy Framework:	The Report is a matter for Executive Decision by Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 13th April, 2023 the Council agreed the introduction of an experimental school street closure on Dryden Road for Fairfield Primary School, Penarth.</li> <li>• The introduction of this resulted in the first school timed street closure in the Vale of Glamorgan by implementing a one-way system, installing traffic calming measures and school staff managing the timed closure. This has provided a traffic free, safe environment for pupils to access and exit school premises.</li> <li>• The Report proposes that the experimental traffic regulation order be made permanent.</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet agrees to public notice being advertised for the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for a school street closure on Dryden Road, Penarth as detailed in Appendix A and B to this report, to be made permanent.
2. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services to agree the final design and extent of the school street closure and that the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to execute any legal Orders to implement the Scheme.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. To provide the necessary authority to the progress with the permanent traffic regulation Order.
2. To provide the necessary authority to ensure the scheme is implemented in the most appropriate and efficient manner.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 allows Highway Authorities to make and vary Orders to regulate the movement of vehicular traffic and to improve the amenities of an area.
- 1.2 The Council as Highway Authority has a responsibility to improve the safety of the highway user and may be found to be negligent if it does not meet its statutory obligations under the Highways Act 1980 and the Road Traffic Act 1988.
- 1.3 One of the ways of improving highway safety is to reduce traffic around schools and the Council is proposing to make the school street closure on Dryden Road in Penarth, that does not allow motorised vehicles into the street at set times of the day, a permanent feature during term times.
- 1.4 The Council has previously approved an Experimental Traffic Order (ETRO) for the experimental school street closure on Dryden Road for Fairfield Primary School, Penarth on 13th April, 2023 ([Minute Number C286](#) refers).

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 Closing streets around schools to traffic at drop-off and pick up times can help lower congestion and improve air quality. It can help boost the number of children walking, cycling and scooting to school each day. Findings from Sustrans on the benefits of school street closures can be found here:

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/opinion/2020/august/school-streetsprovide-solution-to-inactivity-congestion-and-air-pollution>

- 2.2** Since 2021 the Council has undertaken extensive engagement in the area to discuss proposals that included Dryden Road, Penarth being closed in the morning and afternoons.
- 2.3** The Council's Active Travel Officer and an officer from Sustrans Cymru met with the Head of Fairfield Primary School on 22nd February, 2023 to finalise the details of the school street closure. Discussion took place on the proposed timings of the closure morning and afternoon; go live date and the supervision of the closure point.
- 2.4** The Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) for the school street closure under Section 9 & 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (Prohibition of Driving) was sealed on 25th April, 2023 and was accompanied with signage and bollards at the point of closure on Dryden Road. The timed closures commenced on 9th May, 2023.
- 2.5** An Experimental TRO can be in place for up to 18 months and was the preferred option at the time of implementation so that it gave Officers time to assess the success or otherwise of the pilot school street closure.
- 2.6** No objections or comments from the public have been received from the public during the first 12 months of the trial. Vehicle speeds and traffic volumes have been assessed prior to implementation and monitored during the experimental school street closure, these results can be seen in Appendix C.
- 2.7** A survey was circulated to residents of Dryden Road on 19th July, 2023, asking for their feedback on the school street closure and results can be found at Appendix D. From the resident survey there were two themes:
- a. Pupils walking in the road during the closures – the aim of the scheme is to provide a traffic free environment however the school have reminded parents/pupils that they need to do so with due care and attention.
  - b. Displacement parking in neighbouring streets – monitoring has been undertaken by the Councils Active Travel Officer and the PCSO and they felt that there has been no worsening of conditions in local streets than before the timed closures were implemented.
  - c. Other points raised did not relate to the ETRO for the timed school street closures.
- 2.8** Traffic volume data (Appendix C) shows that the number of vehicles entering Dryden Road during the times of closure have fallen dramatically, which has improved safety within Dryden Road during the times pupils are walking/cycling to and from school.
- 2.9** Between the months of May to October 2023, the School Caretaker and Head Teacher were responsible for implementing and managing the closures. This was not sustainable and so from November 2023 the closure is maintained with signage.

- 2.10** The Transport Services department are currently evaluating the potential to obtain powers to enforce Moving Traffic Offences (MTO) that would negate the need for school road closures to be physically managed by staff. A Cabinet Report will be presented in Autumn 2024 on this matter for further consideration.
- 2.11** Information captured during this schemes development and implementation has assisted in developing a strategy for the roll-out of similar schemes at other schools in the Vale. Funding has been received from the Welsh Government SRiC fund to continue piloting school street closures at Peterston Super Ely CiW Primary School and All Saint's CiW Primary, Barry in FY24/25 with others being considered.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** Long term - The proposal has will allow us to make the pilot school street closure a permanent fixture. This has provided a safe, traffic free environment outside of the school gate which, with other enhancements in the area, has promoted active travel to and from school. The long-term goal is to introduce school streets closures to other schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 3.2** Integration – This scheme has integrated Road Safety, Highway Improvements and Active Travel ensuring a safe environment for pupils and staff outside of the school gate.
- 3.3** Involvement – The process of developing this Scheme involved discussion with Fairfield Primary School, Sustrans Cymru, the local community and other stakeholders, including a full initial letter drop to each household within the zone, seeking views on the proposals to introduce a school street in Dryden Road. After fully considering the responses received public notice was given, posted within the affected streets and in the press, thereby contributing and delivering on the involvement agenda. Furthermore, it ensures that the Council's residents and visitors are involved in the management and safety of our local highway network.
- 3.4** Collaboration – The initial proposal involved working in collaboration with Fairfield Primary School, Sustrans Cymru, South Wales Police and residents, ensuring that there is a majority interest in delivering the scheme benefits described within the ETRO Report.
- 3.5** Prevention - The school street closure promotes active travel and the health benefits that it brings. Actively travelling prevents health issues such as diabetes and obesity which puts a strain on the NHS. The road safety interventions have also reduced the potential for any road traffic accidents.

## **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 4.1** Active travel reduces reliance on a vehicle that can release harmful emissions which is damaging to the natural environment.
- 4.2** The timed closure at school drop off and pick up times has reduced the number of vehicles entering the street and has encouraged active methods of travelling to school.
- 4.3** It is important to provide a traffic free environment to encourage pupils to choose low carbon transport options like cycling, walking and scooting, assisting in the Council's commitment to meet Project Zero by 2030.

## **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

### **Financial**

- 5.1** The Welsh Government Safe Routes in Communities Grant has funded this scheme to date.
- 5.2** Total funding of £891,397 has been awarded to the end of March 2024 (£510,491 in 2021/22, £327,900 in 2022/23 and £53,006 in 2023/24). The spend included works on Wordsworth Avenue, Tennyson Road, Dryden Road, legal costs, traffic regulation orders and other administrative fees.
- 5.3** A further grant allocation of £227,000 has been awarded for 2024/25 under Safe Routes in communities – School Street Closures.
- 5.4** The Council's own administrative resources will be used to progress the legal Order.

### **Employment**

- 5.5** Progression of the Traffic Regulation Order will be undertaken by the Traffic Management team within Neighbourhood Services and Transport and the Legal Department.

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 5.6** The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 allows Highway Authorities to make and vary orders to regulate the movement of vehicular traffic and to improve the amenities of an area.
- 5.7** The Council as Highway Authority has a responsibility to improve the safety of the highway user and may be found to be negligent if it does not meet its statutory obligations under the Highways Act 1980 and the Road Traffic Act 1988.

## **6. Background Papers**

None.



## **Appendix A**

### **SCHEDULE 1**

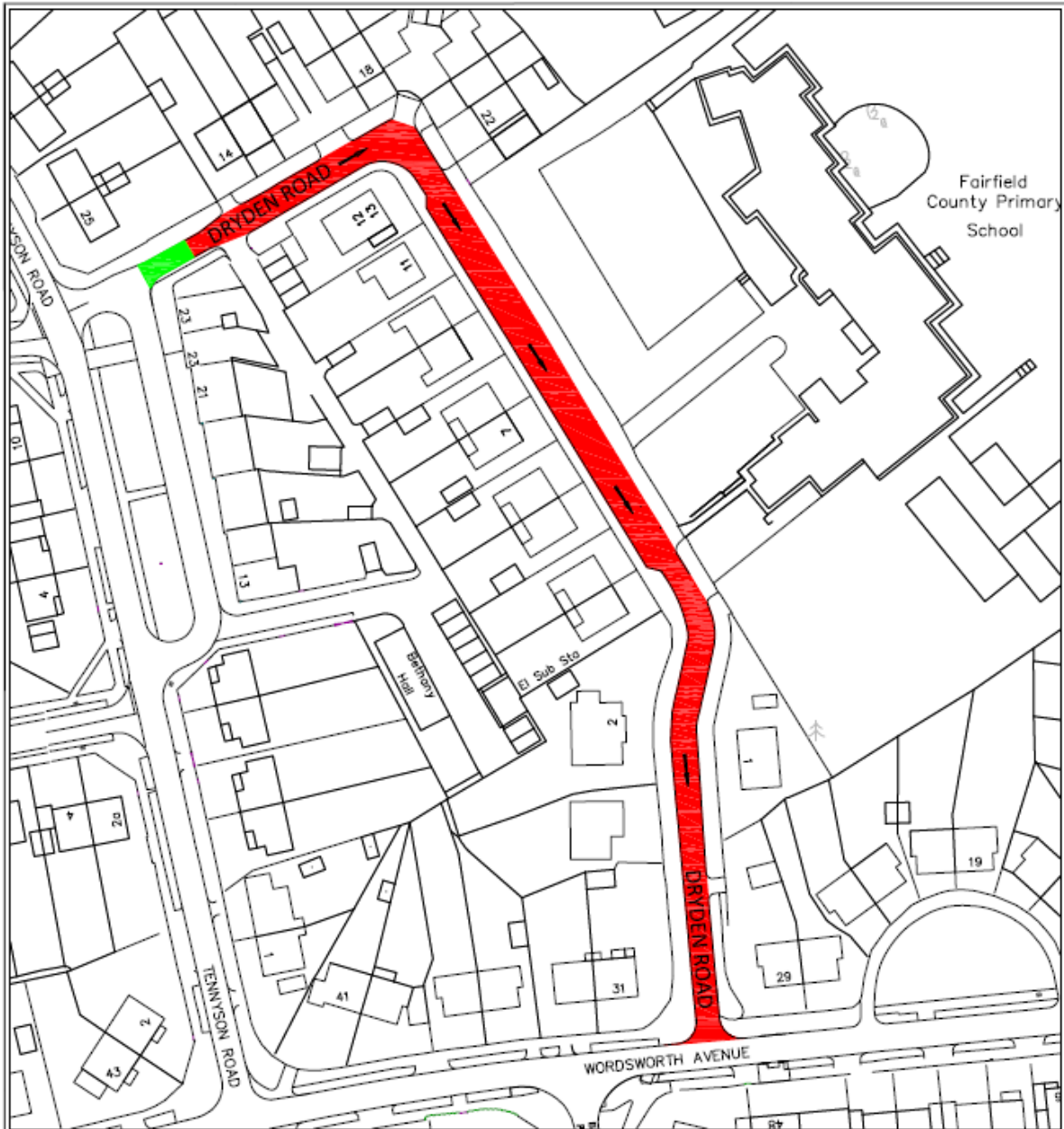
No person shall cause or permit any Motor Vehicle to enter and proceed along the length of road described below, during term time, between the hours of 08:00 and 09:15 and between the hours of 15:00 and 16:00 on any day other than a Saturday or Sunday, unless exempt, as set out in the articles to this Order.

#### **Dryden Road (part), Penarth**

From a point approximately 15.5 metres from its junction with Tennyson Road, in a generally easterly and southerly direction, to its junction with Wordsworth Avenue, a distance of approximately 235 metres.



## Appendix B - Proposed School Street Plan



**VALE of GLAMORGAN**  
 ENVIRONMENT & HOUSING SERVICES

Director:  
 Miles Purser

Head of Neighbourhood Services & Transport:  
 Emma Reed

**BRO MORGANNWG**

**ENGINEERING DESIGN AND PROCUREMENT**

No.	Description	Revisions	Check	Date

Client: The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Key:

- █ Proposed Extents of School Street
- █ Proposed Point Of Closure
- Existing One-Way System

Drawing Title: Dryden Road, Penarth  
 Proposed Experimental 'School Street'.

Drawn: MS	Scale (BAU): 1:1000	Drawing No: T/23/23/MS
Date: 27/03/23		
Checked: MS		
Date: 27/03/23		

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 Cyngor Bro Morgannwg  
 rhif trwydded 100023424, 2023.

### Appendix C – vehicle speed/volume data

<b>Dryden Road vehicle survey data</b>	
7 day average Sep22	244
85% ile speed Sep22	19mph
7 day average Oct23	144
85% ile speed Oct23	13.5mph
7 day average Mar24	155
85% ile speed Mar24	17.2mph

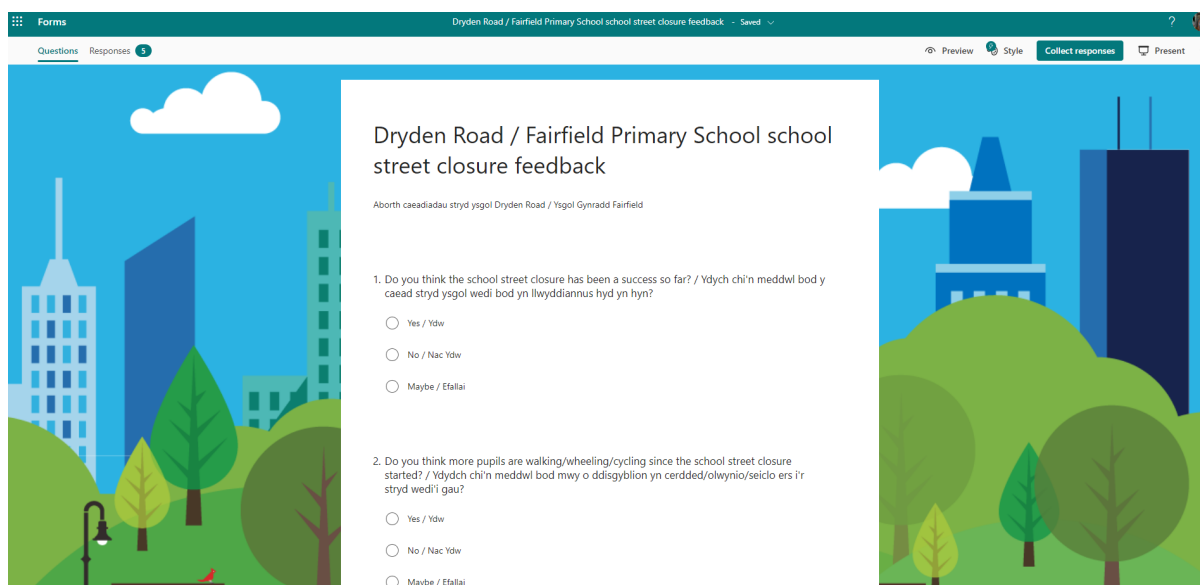
	AM vehicle volume 0800-0900	PM vehicle volume 1500-1600
24 September 2022 (before closure)	11	7
25 September 2022	2	3
26 September 2022	89	47
27 September 2022	84	41
28 September 2022	85	39
29 September 2022	78	40
30 September 2022	98	65
20 October 2023 (after closure)	27	19
21 October 2023 (Saturday)	5	5
22 October 2023 (Sunday)	4	3
23 October 2023	26	12
24 October 2023	31	13
25 October 2023	26	17
26 October 2023	28	5
		**PM 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 was when Enforcement/Safer Vale/VOG were in attendance**
08 March 2024 (after closure)	31	16
09 March 2024	6	3
10 March 2024	3	3
11 March 2024	30	13
12 March 2024	36	16
13 March 2024	23	18
14 March 2024	34	16

## Appendix D – post scheme questionnaire

Resident feedback from Dryden Road was undertaken between 19 July and 31 July 2023.

Letters were hand delivered to every house in Dryden Road providing a link to [Microsoft Form](#) advising email/letter responses were also acceptable.

5 responses were received through Microsoft Forms and 1 email.



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Form interface. At the top, the title is 'Dryden Road / Fairfield Primary School school street closure feedback' with a 'Saved' indicator. The form is titled 'Dryden Road / Fairfield Primary School school street closure feedback' and includes a subtitle in Welsh: 'Aborth caeadiadau stryd ysgol Dryden Road / Ysgol Gynradd Fairfield'. There are two questions, each with three radio button options: 'Yes / Ydw', 'No / Nac Ydw', and 'Maybe / Etallai'. The form is decorated with a colorful illustration of a city skyline and a park area.

**Dryden Road / Fairfield Primary School school street closure feedback**

Aborth caeadiadau stryd ysgol Dryden Road / Ysgol Gynradd Fairfield

1. Do you think the school street closure has been a success so far? / Ydych chi'n meddwl bod y caeod stryd ysgol wedi bod yn llwyddiannus hyd yn hyn?

Yes / Ydw

No / Nac Ydw

Maybe / Etallai

2. Do you think more pupils are walking/wheeling/cycling since the school street closure started? / Ydych chi'n meddwl bod mwy o ddisgyblion yn cerdded/olwynio/seiclo ers i'r stryd wedi'i gau?

Yes / Ydw

No / Nac Ydw

Maybe / Etallai

3. In my opinion the road feels safer at school drop off/pick up as a result of the school street closure / Yn fy marn i mae'r heol yn teimlo'n fwy ddiogel yn ystod amser gadael/casglu fel canlyniad i'r caead stryd ysgol \*



4. The street is more child friendly / Mae'r stryd yn fwy plentyn gyfeillgar \*



5. The street is a more enjoyable place to be in / Mae'r stryd yn lle fwy pleserus i fod ynddo \*



6. The surrounding streets are less congested / Mae'r strydoedd amgylchynol yn llai prysur \*



7. How worried, if at all, would you say you are about the health impacts of car exhaust fumes at school drop-off and pick-up times? / Pa mor bryderus, os o gwbl, ydych chi am effeithiau iechyd mygdarth gwacáu car yn ystod amser gadael ac amser casglu? \*

- Very worried / Pryderus iawn
- Fairly worried / Eithaf pryderus
- Not very worried / Ddim yn bryderus iawn
- Not worried at all / Ddim yn bryderus o gwbl
- Don't know / Ddim yn gwybod

8. Please share any other comments you have - your comments will help us in future scheme rollouts across the Vale of Glamorgan / Plis rhannwch unrhyw sylwadau sydd gennych - bydd eich sylwadau yn helpu ni gyda cyflwyno cynlluniau yn y dyfodol ar draws Bro Morgannwg.

Enter your answer

## Dryden Road / Fairfield Primary School school street closure feedback

5

Responses


09:11

Average time to complete

Closed

Status

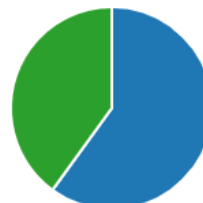
[View results](#)

 [Open in Excel](#) ...

1. Do you think the school street closure has been a success so far? / Ydych chi'n meddwl bod y caead stryd ysgol wedi bod yn llwyddiannus hyd yn hyn?

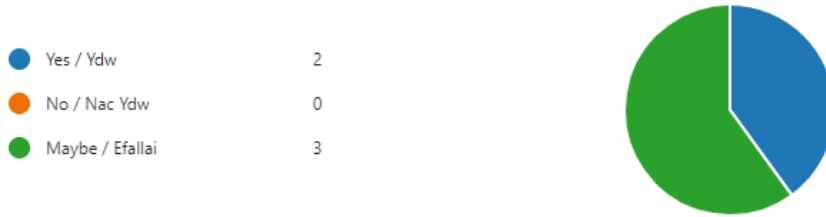
[More Details](#)

- Yes / Ydw 3
- No / Nac Ydw 0
- Maybe / Efallai 2



2. Do you think more pupils are walking/wheeling/cycling since the school street closure started? / Ydydch chi'n meddwl bod mwy o ddisgyblion yn cerdded/olwynio/seiclo ers i'r stryd wedi'i gau?

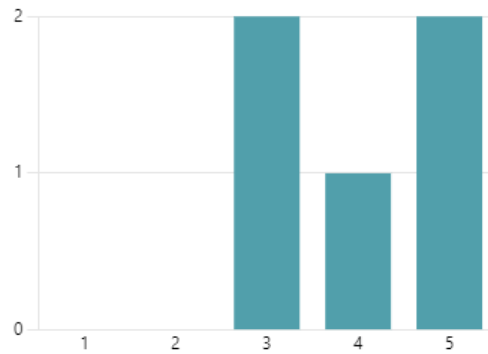
[More Details](#)



3. In my opinion the road feels safer at school drop off/pick up as a result of the school street closure / Yn fy marn i mae'r heol yn teimlo'n fwy ddiogel yn ystod amser gadael/casglu fel canlyniad i'r caead stryd ysgol

[More Details](#)

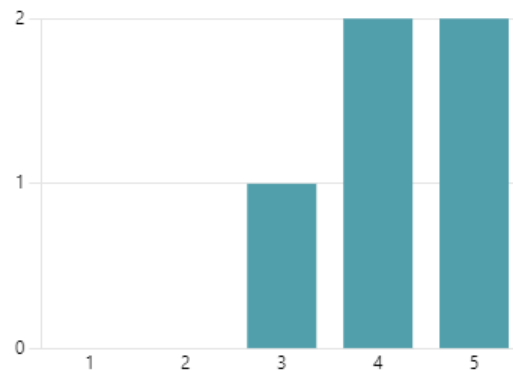
4.00  
Average Rating



4. The street is more child friendly / Mae'r stryd yn fwy plentyn gyfeillgar

[More Details](#)

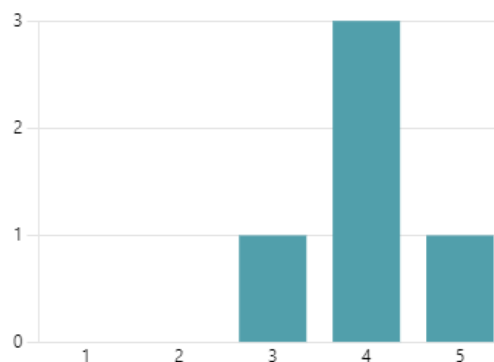
4.20  
Average Rating



5. The street is a more enjoyable place to be in / Mae'r stryd yn lle fwy pleserus i fod ynddo

[More Details](#)

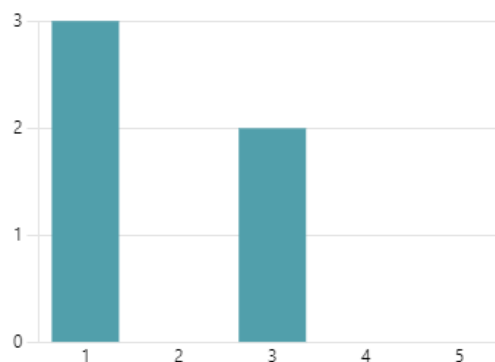
4.00  
Average Rating



6. The surrounding streets are less congested / Mae'r strydoedd amgylchynol yn llai prysur

[More Details](#)

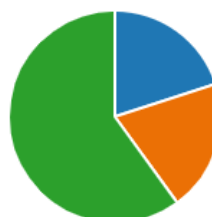
1.80  
Average Rating



7. How worried, if at all, would you say you are about the health impacts of car exhaust fumes at school drop-off and pick-up times? / Pa mor bryderus, os o gwbl, ydych chi am effeithiau iechyd mygdarth gwacáu car yn ystod amser gadael ac amser casglu?

[More Details](#)

- Very worried / Pryderus iawn 1
- Fairly worried / Eithaf pryderus 1
- Not very worried / Ddim yn bry... 3
- Not worried at all / Ddim yn bry... 0
- Don't know / Ddim yn gwybod 0



8. Please share any other comments you have - your comments will help us in future scheme rollouts across the Vale of Glamorgan / Plis rhannwch unrhyw sylwadau sydd gennych -...

#### 4 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	As a resident I've noticed that a lot of the times parents allow the children to walk in the middle of the road which should not happen. As residents we can still use the roads at all times and parents should make sure the kids walk on the pavement so everyone is safe. I think some feedback regarding this should be given to parents by the school. I've also noticed that some parents started to park on nearby streets instead. This sometimes makes it a nightmare driving on these streets and even walking because they take most of the road/pavement.
2	anonymous	The closing off of the street is not being closely adhered to particularly in the afternoon, so people are still driving down the road to drop off/pick up when the road hasn't been closed at given times. As it is a school street closure but residents can still go and out if needed parents/children seem less aware of the potential danger from moving vehicles in the street from residents. Additionally the closure of the street has led to the continued problem parking on Wordsworth avenue close to the junctions on Tennyson road and Dryden road.
3	anonymous	Road closure overall has been a good thing. The street definitely seems safer and the exhaust fumes must be reduced which is great. Only issues are that at school pick up drop off times, parking on nearby roads/ pavements is happening increasingly on junctions and other unsafe locations and makes crossing nearby roads more unsafe, particularly with young children. The parking that is really unsafe has to be against existing regulations so some enforcement in nearby roads might help remind people what they should not be doing. The other slight issue is with the before and after school club operating from the school now there is increased traffic outside of the closure times, this is nothing like the traffic levels we previously had at school start and finish times but people using their cars at these times are much more inclined to park over residents drives (even when other spaces are available!) So behaviour outside of the closure times has become a bit worse. Perhaps a reminder from the after school club or the school that parents need to be considerate users of the road outside of school times would help.
4	anonymous	Parents/carers still come early to park on Dryden Road. Nursery staff, 1 in particular has her lunch in her car with the engine running, including during school holidays. I was at the bus stop on Wordsworth Ave at 8.55 1 day, and saw a mother reverse from Wordsworth Ave onto Dryden Road to park. The streets around Dryden Rd are very congested at school start and finish times. There is a bend on Dryden Road where cars are frequently parked throughout the day. This causes difficulty for some residents, but also for deliveries and refuse collection. The pavement on Dryden Rd near Wordsworth Ave is not wide enough for anyone to pass without walking on the grass verge. At the moment, it is dry, but for a lot of the time, it can be muddy and slippery. It would be better if the grass verge was reduced as so many families are walking that way.



Email from resident:

Answers to your questions on survey regarding Dryden Road

1. No. I was not aware of it feeling unsafe.
2. They are walking in the road (literally) but cars are parked not far away, probably causing problems.
3. No, definitely not. A lady remarked to me yesterday how horrid the entrance from Tennyson Road looks with the ugly high notices, like an entrance to a prison zone.  
Also the ugly concrete posts.
4. No
5. Not exactly worried but annoyed not only by fumes but noise of engines running.

Also,if the railings at the bottom of the road are removed, what will replace them?

Not more posts I hope! Or will it be more parking spaces for the teachers who park - on the pavement opposite?

My last thought is why wasn't all the work completed at the same time. We residents went through a lot of disruption & inconvenience for weeks. I for one have had enough & dont relish more.