

Safe Streets

**Reclaim Your Street,
Safe Streets Save Lives**

Quiet Streets Guide

About Quiet Streets

What is a Quiet Street?

A Quiet Street is a place for bike riding, running, scooting, dancing, play and more. Residents have the opportunity to enforce regular, temporary road closures to create more outside space for people living on the street, allowing people to use the street for exercise.

A Quiet Street is designed to be able to help our residents adhere to the current coronavirus guidance by creating additional space to help people maintain social distancing. We suggest the temporary road closure is enforced for several hours at a time to give all households the opportunity to use the road while adhering to the current guidelines for meeting people outside.

How can I involve everyone?

Young children exercise through play, therefore it is important play forms a part of your Quiet Street if you have young children living on your road.

People caring for young children could be encouraged to bring toys onto the street, for example a ball to play catch with or someone could draw some games such as hopscotch onto the street for families to use.

It should be agreed in advance that each household should be responsible for helping their children maintain a social distance from other households and to only play with toys they own as coronavirus can survive on surfaces for up to three days.

We have also included some activity ideas for older residents living on your street on page 4 of this guide.

How often can I have a Quiet Street?

How often you choose to have a Quiet Street completely depends on the needs of you and your neighbours. Whilst we suggest you close your road for at least 2 hours at a time it is up to you if you would like to do this once a week, twice a week or even every day.

This guide

This guide will help you through the quick process of applying for your road to become a Quiet Street and contains ideas for activities and FAQs.



Five Steps To Becoming A Quiet Street

1. Let your neighbours know

The first step is to notify the households who will be affected by the Quiet Street. A Quiet Street notification letter is available to download at tameside.gov.uk/quietstreets or paper copies can be sent to your address for you to post through the affected households letterboxes.

The notification letter gives information about what Quiet Streets are, the benefits as well as details of who to contact should anyone have any concerns.

This is also a great opportunity to set up a WhatsApp or Facebook group for your street and see if anyone is interested in helping you steward the Quiet Street. The template includes space to give this information to your neighbours.

2. Notify the council

After you've notified your neighbours you can then apply for your road to become a Quiet Street. You'll need to fill in a Quiet Street notification form, which is available to download at tameside.gov.uk/quietstreets.

We will respond to applications as soon as possible in order for you to be able to set up your Quiet Street quickly.

3. Remind your neighbours

Before your first Quiet Street session it's a good idea to remind your neighbours about it. Simply print out a reminder note, available to download, to post through all affected households letterboxes or we can send these to you.

You can't stop people parking on the street; however you could put a note on the windscreens of cars parked there asking them to make other arrangements when the road is being used as a Quiet Street.

4. Your first Quiet Street

The first step is to set up the temporary road closure: some guidance is included on page 5 of this guide to help you do this safely. When the road is being used as a Quiet Street, someone will need to be available to steward vehicles needing to use the street e.g. resident's vehicles and make sure everyone is adhering to the current coronavirus guidance.

Hopefully this will be your first of many Quiet Streets. You only need to let us know about your intention to have the temporary road closure in place once as you will include the timings in your notification form. If there are any changes, or you would like to stop hosting Quiet Streets please let us know by emailing licensing@tameside.gov.uk.

5. Let us know how it went

Your feedback is really important. It will help us make it easier for people to close their road in the future by showing the impact Quiet Streets has had on communities. Please fill in our evaluation form and send it to events@tameside.gov.uk.

Templates

Free templates including letters and reminders are available for you to download and use. Please visit tameside.gov.uk/quietstreets to download them.

If you don't have a printer and need printed copies to be sent to you please email the completed templates to events@tameside.gov.uk including your address and how many households you need to contact.



Activities

Here are just a few ideas of activities households could do during a Quiet Street; you and your neighbours can be creative, using what people already have to create games or activities.

Cycling:



Dig out the bike from the back of the garage and get back into cycling. [Here](#) are some useful tips for checking your bike to make sure it's safe to ride.

If you have a child, you could use this time to teach them to ride a bike. Cycling UK has some tips to teach them [here](#).

If you feel confident to venture outside of the Quiet Street there are many cycling routes in Tameside which can be found at www.cyclestreets.net.

Cycling will become an increasingly important transport method as we need to avoid using public transport where possible, so now is a great time to get back into cycling.

For older residents:

The University of Manchester has developed some exercises to help people over 70 maintain balance and flexibility. You can download the information leaflet [here](#).

Pavement chalk:



Coloured chalk is a cheap way to create some games such as hopscotch or Tic Tac Toe or you could use coloured chalk to mark out a long jump and measure how far people can jump.



Bring out toys:

Take toys such as soft balls, hula hoops and skipping ropes outside. You should avoid sharing these items with other households as this could risk spreading the virus.

Keeping Your Street Safe

It's a good idea to have a few Quiet Street marshals in place who will be responsible for closing and opening your road as well as helping households adhere to social distancing guidelines to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

If you have set up a WhatsApp or Facebook group, you could allocate a few marshals for each Quiet Street session.



Setting up the temporary road closure

When the Quiet Street is due to start, a marshal needs to put a "Road Closed" sign at each end of the road that is going to be closed, making sure this signage is visible to drivers.

The road can then be blocked with easily moveable objects such as wheelie bins or a long rope. Depending on what has been agreed with the Council, you may also need to set up some diversion signs to help drivers find a different route.

Coronavirus guidelines

It's suggested that roads are closed for several hours at a time to give all households the opportunity to benefit while maintaining social distancing. Everyone on the street should adhere to the current guidance for meeting people outside. You can check the current guidance by visiting www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Marshals will need to monitor the Quiet Street to make sure everyone on the street has the opportunity to use it and social distancing is maintained. Most people are adhering to the guidelines however you can politely ask someone to move to another area of the road should they not be following the current guidelines.

If your street is struggling to maintain the current guidance please email events@tameside.gov.uk for advice.

Washing hands

Good personal hygiene is still one of the most effective ways of preventing the spread of the virus.

Everyone should wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser before using the Quiet Street and after being on the Quiet Street.

Reopening the road

Once the street is clean, tidy and the road is clear you can reopen the street. All you need to do is remove any barriers you put in place when you closed the road and remove the road closure and any diversion signs.



Frequently Asked Questions

I don't have a printer, how can I post things though people's letter box?

We are able to provide you with printed letters and reminder slips which we will then post to you. Please email events@tameside.gov.uk including the following information:

- Your address
- How many households you need to contact

Will people who don't live on this road be able to use the Quiet Street?

In order to help everyone adhere to the current coronavirus guidelines, each Quiet Street should only be used by the people living on that street.

If someone is looking to join in, Tameside Council would be happy to discuss creating a Quiet Street where they live with them.

Will anyone be able to have a Quiet Street?

We will look at each application individually; however it is not possible to close some roads for example, A or B roads. If you are interested in your street becoming a Quiet Street but concerned about your location please email licensing@tameside.gov.uk to discuss some options.

What if no one is interested in joining in?

People will normally want to be involved in activities taking place on their doorstep. Quiet Streets are being trialled around the UK with people responding positively.

Communication with all residents before the Quiet Street is crucial to give everyone the opportunity to get involved as well as express any concerns.

Someone on my street doesn't want the road to be periodically closed, what can I do?

The first step is to listen to their concerns and see if you can work to reduce them. For example, if someone is concerned about the spread of coronavirus you could point out the efforts being made to help people on the street maintain social distancing.

Please contact events@tameside.gov.uk/07803006172 if you would like any further advice.

Children are playing on the street, does this count as exercise?

Yes, young children get the majority of their exercise through play. Skipping, jumping, climbing, throwing and catching a ball are all excellent forms of exercise. As long as the child/children are maintaining a social distance from other households, these behaviours should be encouraged.



Frequently Asked Questions

I've really enjoyed having less traffic on our roads, what can I do to maintain this once social distancing ends?

We are keen to help communities reduce levels of pollution and car usage where they live. After social distancing rules are lifted we will be working with communities to create play streets, a UK initiative helping build stronger, safer and happier communities. Similarly to Quiet Streets, Play Streets are streets which are regularly closed but with a focus on bringing everyone together and facilitating play.

For more information on play streets visit: playingout.net

More information on Quiet Streets can be obtained by contacting us by email, events@tameside.gov.uk or phoning 07803006172.

