



What are Play Streets?

Play streets sessions are short, resident-led road closures to encourage neighbours to play safely and freely outside their own front door. Making play easier and closer to home is a great way to increase activity levels and bring people together. People on streets in the UK, Canada, Australia are already enjoying the positive benefits of Play Streets for children and communities.

Local children who take part will be supervised by their parents/carers. Though it's not just for kids, but a chance for neighbours of all ages to meet. We would love to see you there.

Street play...

- Gives children the space and freedom they need to be healthy and happy
- Helps children develop a sense of independence and responsibility
- Provides space for everyone to make friends, leading to more resilient communities
- Makes use of the space right outside our own front doors

How does it happen?

Residents discuss the idea first, consulting with their neighbours living along the street.

Once the details of the proposed Play Streets are agreed upon, residents apply for a Community Road Closure. Some streets apply to hold a one-off session, others do it weekly or monthly as volunteer time allows. Sessions usually last between one and three hours. Our plan is to hold a trial which will hopefully spread to all of Lower Hutt in the future.

On the day, neighbours close the road to traffic using official signs and barriers. Residents can still drive in and out at walking speed, guided by volunteer kaitiaki.

Parents and caregivers are responsible for their children as on any other day.

How might it affect you?

During the time when the Play Street is on, most cars won't be able to drive along this street. However, if you or a visitor need to get in and out of your property, all you need to do is alert the kaitiaki, then drive along the street at walking pace, with your hazard lights on, behind one of the kaitiaki.

If you have any questions on the day, just approach one of the organisers on the street

Apart from that, you might see a few more people on your street and hear the sounds of kids playing, but that's about all. We'll help you pack up everything and clean up after the session. There may also be some chalk on the road that will wash away with the next rain.

