

# SCHOOL STREETS

Improving the quality of life,  
challenging the dominance of the car



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**Paving the way for School Streets**

**Cllr Rezina Chowdhury**

**Cabinet Member for Sustainable Lambeth and Clean Air  
London Borough of Lambeth**

**#schoolstreets**

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**Design Policy Lead for Streets**  
**Transport for London**

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## Paving the way for School Streets

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Design Policy Lead for Streets  
Transport for London

**Suzy Harrison**  
Active Travel Manager  
London Borough of Lambeth

**Kate Jack**  
Smart Mobility Lead  
Stantec

**Jenny Babey**  
Behaviour Change & Engagement  
Sustrans

**Habib Khan**  
Founder and Director  
Meristem Design

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**Active Travel Manager**  
**London Borough of Lambeth**

**#schoolstreets**

# School Streets Conference


## Lambeth's School Streets roll out

Suzy Harrison  
Active Travel Manager  
SchoolStreets@lambeth.gov.uk

# Lambeth School Streets



Thanks for making it safe to get to school

Find out more and how you can have your say  
[www.lambeth.gov.uk/schoolstreets](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/schoolstreets) 





# Why Do We Do It?

## The Big 3

- Reduce Road Danger
- Improve Air Quality
- Increase Active Travel



# Current Situation

- 24 School Streets (25 schools)
- 20 permanent
- 4 transitioning from Experimental to Permanent



# What's Next?

We have:

- A Labour Manifesto commitment
- A Suitability Report – 32 suitable schools
- Funding
- Human Resources
- 3 years



# The Suitability Report

- Engagement
- Closure points
- Difficulty of delivery score
- Air Quality data
- Traffic Monitoring data
- Workable designs



# Steps to Implementation

- Engagement – school communities and local residents
- Traffic Management Order – experimental or permanent
- Statutory consultation (if permanent)
- Implementation
- Post –implementation monitoring
- Enforcement – barriers or ANPR



# Challenges

- Working with bordering Authorities
- Working with internal colleagues
- Non-compliance
- What to do over school holidays
- Exemptions





# The Future

- In 2026 we aim to have 55 primary schools with a School Street
- That is 85% of all primary schools in the borough
- Treatments at the other schools
- Secondary Schools?



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**Paving the way for School Streets**

# **Jenny Babey**

## **Behaviour Change & Engagement**

### **Sustrans**

**#schoolstreets**

# Sustrans School Streets

Jenny Babey  
Project Manager - Behaviour Change and  
Engagement



Big Pedal School Street, 2019



# Sustrans School Streets

**500+**  
schools  
supported

**80+**  
local authority  
partners

Our experience includes:

- Organising
- Monitoring
- Training
- Design & Engineering
- Delivery
- Funding
- Advising
- Behaviour change activities



Big Pedal School Street, 2019

# Consultation

- Start as early as possible
- You can never do too much
- Don't ask too much
- Talk to the wider community
- Make it accessible
- Negative views shouldn't stop a scheme



# Hotspur Primary, Newcastle



Communication through **delivery** and **engagement** events



Talking to **pupils** during classroom sessions, **families** at the school gate and **local residents** in public spaces.

“The experience outside of school is so much calmer, safer and fun...it feels much more like the right environment for children...Now it is so much better”

Anonymous, Commonplace

# No One Size Fits all



# Design and implementation

- Don't do too much too quickly
- Consider the environment outside of the school hours
- Alternative ideas to create a friendlier environment eg green spaces, crossings, benches
- Be ambitious!



Creating a vibrant space

# St Mary's Primary School, Southampton



Permanent measures following three trial school streets at St Mary's CE Primary School, Southampton



**29 percentage point increase** in those agreeing that it **was easy to cross** Golden Grove after implementation.



**NO<sub>2</sub>** outside of the school **decreased between 8 to 24 µg/m<sup>3</sup>** during the school run hours<sup>1</sup> since the launch of the school street.



**15% decrease** in average **number of vehicles** on Golden Grove between pre and post data.



There was an overall **increase in active travel**, showing a **23.8 percentage point increase** in children walking to school.



e school run

# Summary

- Every school site is different
- There is no *one-size-fits-all* solution
- Engage beyond the school gates
- Shared learning can help develop better quality schemes
- Consider the long-term goal at the start
- School Streets are more than just stewards, barriers or camera enforcement



How school streets make you feel





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**Smart Mobility Lead**  
**Stantec**

**#schoolstreets**



# School Streets Conference Taking the Rage Out of the Road

Kate Jack



# Waterbeach Barracks New Town

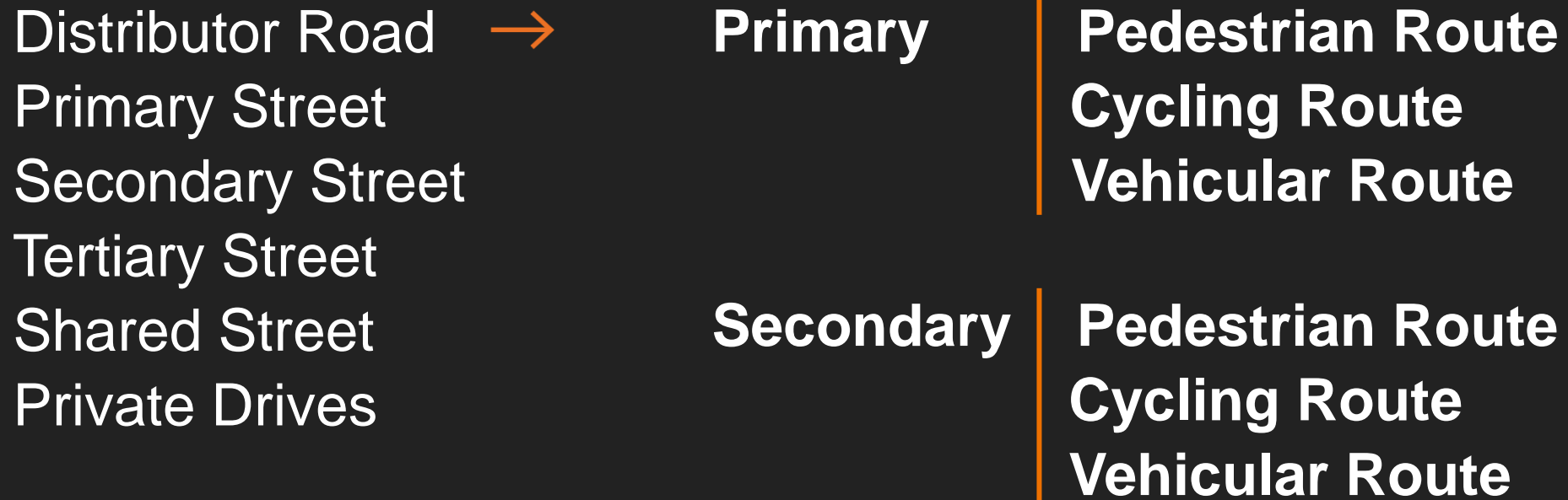


## Waterbeach Key Phase 1

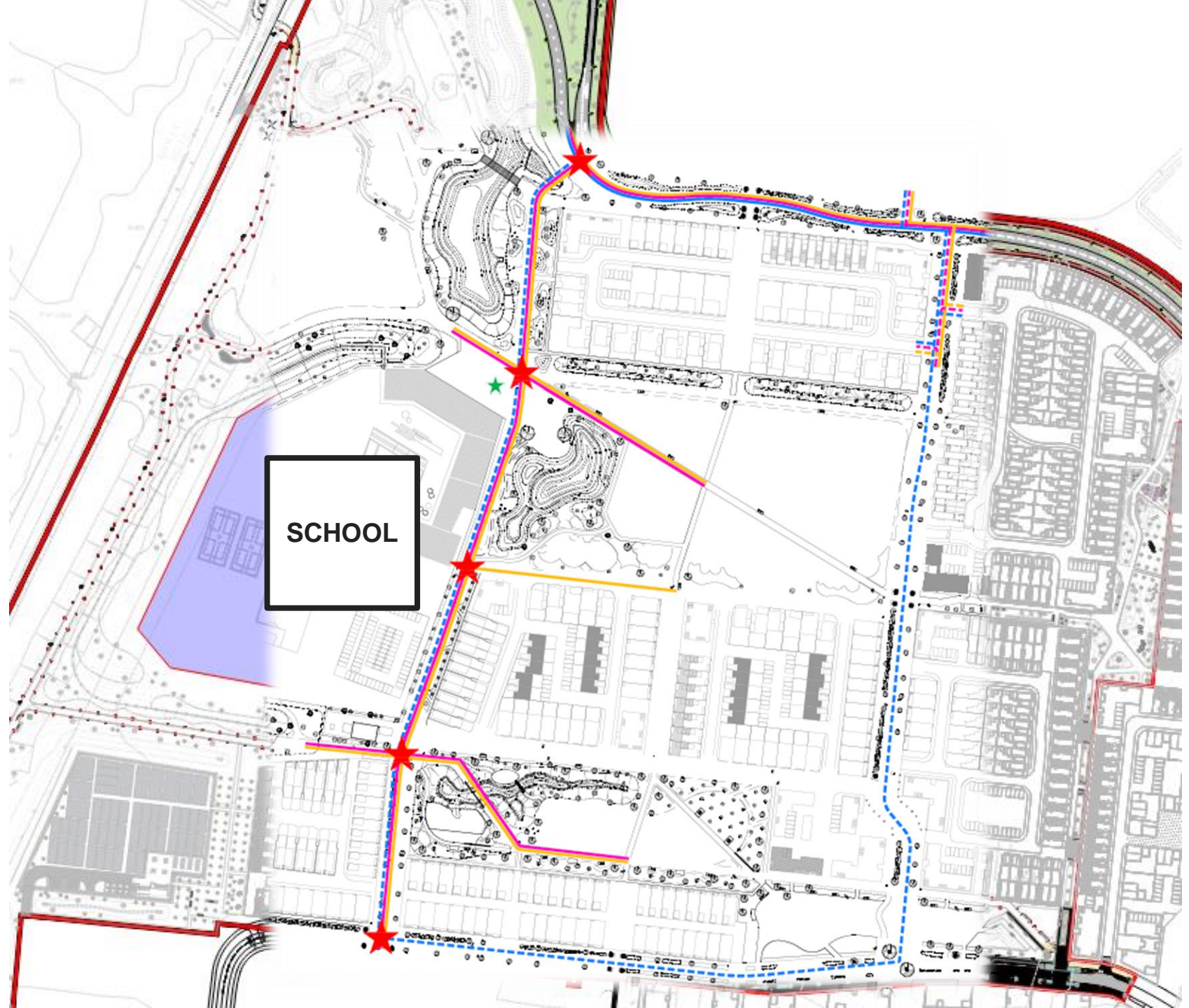




# Moving from Road Hierarchy to User Hierarchy



**Access Vehicular Route**



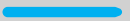






# Mobility Hub





-  PED / CYCLE
-  CAR
-  PARK / WOODLAND

SCHOOL

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL HUB

HOMES

HOMES

HOMES

HOMES

HOMES

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# How to Decarbonise our Schools



*Follow us  
@meristemdesign*

**MERISTEM**

DESIGN

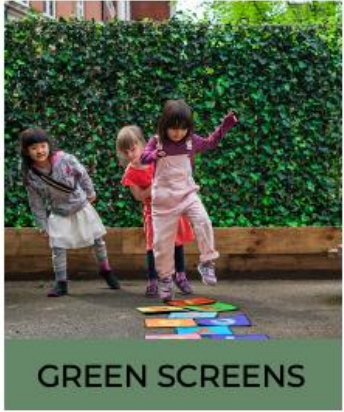
# Our clients include 31 London Councils...



## Award Winning Design

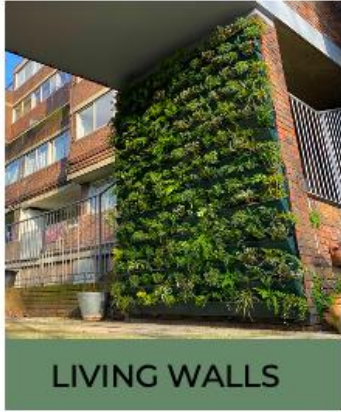


# Our Services



GREEN SCREENS

- Helps with dust suppression on construction sites
- Create a quick and simple green intervention
- Variety of plants and trellis to choose from



LIVING WALLS

- Attracts biodiversity
- Helps with air purification
- Can be used as placemaking



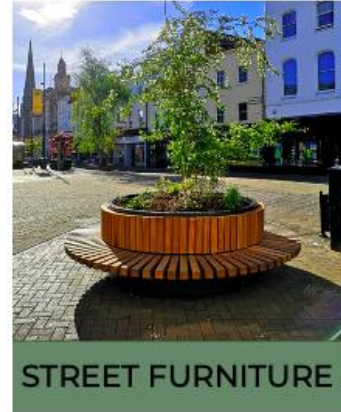
PARKLETS

- Taking over car parking spaces to create a mini park
- Permanent or temporary solutions
- Can integrate; planting /cycling, provisions / seating



RAINGARDENS & SUD's

- Low maintenance garden
- Can absorb up to 30% more water than grass
- Reduces erosion by slowing heavy rainfall
- Flexible layout to fit into landscape.



STREET FURNITURE

- Planters
- Modal Filters
- Seating
- Urban Realm



INTERIOR GREENING

- Productivity can be increased by 8%, rates of well-being up by 13%, increases in creativity, with reduced absenteeism and presenteeism

# Our Work With SCHOOLS

Which includes;

- Planters for School Streets
- School Parklets
- Car Free Days
- Rain Gardens

Contact: [info@meristemdesign.co.uk](mailto:info@meristemdesign.co.uk) [www.meristemdesign.co.uk](http://www.meristemdesign.co.uk)



## School Streets Planters with Road Signs



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# School Car Free Days



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## Schools Parklets



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## SuDS Rain Gardens Outside Schools



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## How to Improve Air Quality in the Playground



Contact: [info@meristemdesign.co.uk](mailto:info@meristemdesign.co.uk) [www.meristemdesign.co.uk](http://www.meristemdesign.co.uk)



## Pre-grown Green Screens

*Reduction in concentrations of up to 36% and 41% were found for NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>*



## Re-wilding the Playground



Before



After

Contact: [info@meristemdesign.co.uk](mailto:info@meristemdesign.co.uk) [www.meristemdesign.co.uk](http://www.meristemdesign.co.uk)

## Educating the School Children



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## Reconnecting Children with Nature

Meristem workshops are designed to educate pupils to explore the importance of soil, learn the impact plants have on our lives and health, and discover the unique properties they have to filter the air.

All sessions are related to plant science, based on sensory integration exercises to show how plants help to clean urban air, improve our day to day air quality and reduce noise pollution, acting as a vegetative acoustic barrier.

Children will be invited to relate their activities with the Green Screens recently installed at the school.

Session time: 40 minutes including visual and interactive activities.

Objectives
Observe and recognise some simple characteristics of plants.
Work together in groups, taking turns and sharing.
Develop curiosity and interest by experimenting and using their senses.
Share experiences, ideas and information with each other.



### Plants that Clean the Air

Once matured, the ivy screen installed at the school will help decrease the pollution concentration on the playground area by 24%. A practical exercise with leaves, water and colourful dust will help children to understand how plants can reduce outdoor pollution.

### Soil

The children will learn about soil and its complex mixtures of minerals, water, air and other organisms. How soil is vital to life on earth and how it is needed for plants to grow. Children will be introduced to four key soil components: sand, silt, clay, and loam. They will have an opportunity to touch, compare and write a sentence about them.

### Seed Trays

At the end of the session each child will be provided with seeds, a tray (or small pot), soil and water. They will be asked to pick from a wide variety of seeds which include: Rosemary, Thyme, Coriander, Chilli plants or variety of colourful plants. Each child will plant the seeds into the soil and water them, then take them home to grow on their window sills. Green prizes can be awarded for the best growing trays!

Thank you

For more info contact:

T: 020 3137 6971

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