# Risk/benefit assessment

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| Hazard | Risk(s) | Benefits | Actions to reduce risk |
| Moving vehicles | Injury to volunteers when setting up road closure, or to children when playing. | Residents able to access their cars and to come in and out of the street if necessary, minimising disruption to residents. Children learn about road safety and to be cautious when moving vehicles are nearby. | All volunteer stewards to wear high visibility jackets. Road closure points to be clearly marked with barriers provided by Ealing Council.  Road closure notices and door-to-door leafleting prior to event to warn neighbours in advance of the road closure.  Children and adults told to stay out of the road until ALL road closure points in place.  Stewards given briefing material in advance, briefed verbally and will follow Ealing Council Stewarding guidance.  Stewards to use whistles and/or megaphones to gain attention of children/adults.  Floating steward on duty to look out for cars trying to leave. |
| Playing beyond the barriers | Injury to children by vehicles passing beyond the road closure barriers |  | Stewards posted at barriers. They are briefed to watch for children playing on the road beyond the barriers and will instruct them to move on the pavements if they see this happening.  Parents instructed in advance and reminded on the day to remain responsible for their children. |
| Collisions with parked cars | Children may collide with parked cars (e.g. when riding a scooter) causing damage to themselves and/or car. | Children enjoy being able to ride in the street more freely and develop motor skills. Children can develop spatial awareness by having to negotiate obstacles. Children develop resilience and confidence through minor scrapes and knocks. | Organiser will monitor activity and talk to child(ren) if it becomes necessary, about the need to be aware and allow space around parked cars. Notice put on car before reminding drivers about event and suggesting they could move their cars (but not compulsory).  Children advised in advance in assembly of the expected behaviour.  Soft balls are encouraged instead of tennis balls/ footballs. |
| Children arguing/getting upset/physical violence between children | Bringing groups of children together in unstructured way may lead to confrontations, upsets, and possibly physical violence between them. | Opportunity for children to learn coping skills and ways to deal with confrontation without parental/adult input. | Organiser and/or steward will intervene if they judge it is necessary to do so and will alert parents. Stewards and organiser instructed to intervene if they see any children acting violently or inappropriately and parents to be informed.  Parents reminded to supervise their own children. |
| Personal injury to participants | Collisions between scooters/bikes/skateboards; collisions between children running around. Slips, trips, falls, broken limbs, collisions involving adults or children in the course of play. | Fun, freedom and  enjoyment of playing. Children develop social, physical, intellectual and creative skills.  Riding scooters, bikes  and skateboards makes children happy, active and  boosts their confidence and independent mobility skills.  Children develop resilience and confidence through  experiences of minor scrapes and knocks – they also learn to assess and  modify their risk-taking. Adults and children get to know their neighbours,  increasing neighbourliness and community cohesion. | Parents and carers attending to be informed via flyers and word of mouth that children with them are their responsibility at all times. Monitor numbers of children and types of activity to ensure that possibility of injury is kept to a minimum. Advertising limited so that only children from school and immediately neighbouring streets likely to be coming. Stewarding arrangements in place as described. Council has approved the road as being suitable for temporary street play closures.  Clear the area beforehand of any trip hazards or glass in the road, etc. |
| Damage to houses | House windows damaged by balls or other thrown objects e.g. frisbees | Ball and other throwing/kicking games develop children’s hand to eye coordination. Ball games are particularly great for engaging dads in play with their children. | Parents and carers attending to be informed via flyers and word of mouth that children arriving with them are their responsibility. Organiser/stewards to monitor activity and talk to children/parents where necessary – e.g. if kicking balls too hard. Soft balls to be encouraged over hard ones such as tennis balls and footballs. |
| Disturbance from non-residents | People come to the street and create problems e.g. noise or inappropriate behaviour.  Drivers get irate at not being able to park or drive as usual, causing stress to stewards and participants and a road safety risk if they drive unpredictably. | Closing the streets for play has myriad benefits already discussed in detail such as improving community cohesion, increasing physical activity levels, reducing air pollution, reducing road danger in the vicinity of the school by reducing the number of comes approaching the school. | Organiser to monitor numbers and activity.  Talk to people about what’s happening and that it’s a low-key community event. Politely ask anyone causing problems to stop or move on (with back up from another adult). Call for assistance from police if necessary - 999 or 101. Alert parents to move children away/clear street if necessary.  Follow stewarding guidance and clearly communicate street closure plans to parents and residents well in advance. |
| Noise disturbance | Night shift workers not able to sleep, those working from home not able to concentrate | Children being loud and exuberant, sometimes is a normal part of playing freely. Many adults enjoy the sound of children playing. | Reminder posted in street in week running up to event to make neighbours aware. Invitations controlled so that only children from street and immediately neighbouring streets invited. Monitor noise levels and where appropriate intervene. |
| Extreme weather conditions e.g. hot sun, heavy rain, high winds, flooding, etc. | Sun burn, heat stroke, hypothermia, catching cold, slipping on ice/wet patches, equipment or participants blown in wind. | Being outdoors regularly is good for health and wellbeing. A moderate amount of sun, rain or wind exposure is beneficial. Children learn to take care when surfaces are wet. Children also love playing the snow! | Stewards briefed to look out for children getting too hot or showing signs of sunburn. Provide jugs of water and cups if possible. Suggest sensible sun protection/hats in communications with parents and children.  Check weather in advance to advise families accordingly e.g. appropriate clothing and footwear.  Secure/monitor loose objects if windy.  Where extreme weather is predicted, plan how families are to be advised in cases of cancellation. |