

Report

Report to:	Roads Safety Forum
Date of Meeting:	17 November 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Car Free School Zones Pilot (CFSZs)
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ outline the progress to date with regards to proposed Car Free School Zones (CFSZs) Pilot and support the recommendations

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Forum is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the report be noted and;
- (2) that the recommendations detailed at paragraph 5 be supported as the agreed position of the Forum.

3. Background

3.1. The Road Safety Forum meeting of 8 August 2019 agreed the following 3 sites to be taken forward for consultation as part of the Car Free School Zones Pilot Initiative:-

- ◆ Burnside Primary School, Glenlui Avenue, Rutherglen
- ◆ Loch/St Anthony's Primary Schools, Lochaber Drive, Rutherglen
- ◆ St Joseph's Primary School, Park Lane, Blantyre

Plans of the zone areas are provided in Appendix 1.

3.2. Since then, the Covid-19 pandemic has taken hold and as a direct consequence of this the Scottish Government have put in place funding to assist with social distancing messaging and measures where there is high pedestrian activity at points on the road network that are constrained. A paper on active travel studies was presented to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee on 15 September 2020 which detailed several initiatives.

3.3. One of these was the Spaces for People initiative where one of these projects will introduce measures outside schools to provide social distancing and active travel messages as well providing an environment outside schools where this can take place. A phased implementation of measures have been identified with the extension of the car free zone project a possible later phase. To date, social distance and active travel banners with associated signing and footway markings have been provided at all schools and a second next phase of measures, mandatory 20mph speed limits outside approximately 90 schools, will be implemented. It is anticipated that gateway signing and carriageway signing will be programmed for

implementation early in 2020. A paper detailing the initiative will be presented to a future Road Safety Forum.

- 3.4. The car free zone proposals were advertised on the Council's website which included a link to a consultation survey. This survey was open from 7 November 2019 to 13 December 2019. Letters were sent to residents that would require access to the zone areas. Schools were requested to also send a similar letter to all parents with the same information. These included details of an Information Event.
 - 3.5. Information events were held on 20 November 2019 at Burnside Primary School, 25 November 2019 at St. Joseph's Primary School and on the 26 November 2019 at St. Anthony's Primary School (including Loch Primary School Parents and Staff).
 - 3.6. A summary of the consultation results for each proposed zone is given in Appendix 2.
 - 3.7. When asked, "To what extent they believed that parking is an issue at school times?" the respective responses were:-
 - ◆ Burnside Primary School – 56% thought there were significant difficulties
 - ◆ St. Joseph's Primary School – 75% thought there were significant difficulties
 - ◆ Loch/St. Anthony's Primary Schools – 37% thought there were some difficulty, with 29% saying there were rarely difficulties
 - 3.8. When asked, "To what extent did they agree that measures are required to improve road safety around the school?" the respective responses were:-
 - ◆ Burnside Primary School – 92% either agreed, or strongly agreed
 - ◆ St. Joseph's Primary School – 90% either agreed, or strongly agreed
 - ◆ Loch/St Anthony's Primary Schools – 55% either agreed, or strongly agreed
 - 3.9. A summary of all survey comments, with the number of times each comment was cited, is provided in Appendix 3.
 - 3.10. Consultation with Police Scotland showed support for the initiative, but they advised that they could not guarantee a presence every day. They would however look at providing a suitable presence on the first few days of implementing each CFSZ to get parents used to the new restrictions and at other times, as required.
- 4. Options to be considered**
- 4.1. Feedback received during the consultation period shows mixed feelings towards the CFSZ proposals. The Burnside Primary School zone received strong support for implementation, the St. Joseph's Primary School zone a split opinion and the Loch/St Anthony's Primary School zone a strong opposition to the introduction of vehicular restrictions.
 - 4.2. In view of the above the following options have been considered:-
 - ◆ Option 1 – Do not implement the CFSZs at this time and consider what additional work can be done to gain the support of parents/residents.
 - ◆ Option 2 – Implement all sites for the experimental period and evaluate post implementation.

- ◆ Option 3 – In accordance with the survey results, implement Burnside Primary School Zone, delay the St. Joseph’s Primary School Zone to work with the school/parents to gain support and consult with Asda over using their car park as an alternative park and Stride site, and do not implement the Loch/St. Anthony’s Primary Schools Zone and work with the school/parents to identify other measures, or what is required to gain their support.
- ◆ Option 4 – Implement the zones at Burnside and St. Joseph’s Primary Schools and do not implement the Loch/ St. Anthony’s Primary School zone for now, but provide the Park and Stride site on East Kilbride Road as some suggest, to encourage its use and monitor its effect, and reconsider a Car Free Zone in the future.
- ◆ Option 5 – Implement the zones at Burnside and St. Joseph’s Primary Schools, and do not implement the scheme at Loch/ St Anthony’s Primary Schools but liaise further with the schools/parents to identify other measures, or what is required to gain their support.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. Option 5 is considered the best option to progress as this will allow the implementation of the zones at 2 locations while entering further discussions with both Loch/St Anthony’s Primary Schools in recognition of the feedback received.
- 5.2. Although the consultation for St Joseph’s Primary School was split with approximately half of respondents in favour of the proposal and half against, there was a very small number of respondents compared to letters distributed and attendance at the Information Event.
- 5.3. The following categories are proposed to be eligible to apply for permits/exemption from the scheme:-

Permits: Residents within the zone
 Local businesses within the zone
 Blue Badge Holders
 Contract School Buses and Taxis
 School Staff (for access to Car Park only)

Exempt: Emergency Services

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. Liaison will take place with Head Teachers and Education Resources to communicate the decisions agreed for each proposed CFSZ.
- 6.2. Elected Members within each relevant ward and Parent Councils will be advised of the proposals. These will also be advertised to the public on the Council website and social media platforms.
- 6.3. Draft Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders will be amended and progressed with a view to implementing the agreed CFSZs early in 2021. The current Covid-19 situation may affect our proposed timelines, and these will be kept under review.

- 6.4. Letters will be sent to the affected residents with details of how to apply for an exemption permit once this system has been set up. Schools will also be informed of how staff and parents with blue badges can apply for a permit. Liaison will take place with Education Resources to inform school contract buses and taxis of the application process.
- 6.5. Liaison will take place with Police Scotland regarding their initial presence and enforcement at each CFSZ plus continued enforcement to ensure a good level of compliance is achieved.
- 6.6. The introduction of further CFSZs will be considered after determining the success and impact of the pilot zones implemented. A full evaluation process will be developed to allow the success of the pilot to be assessed.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1 There are no significant employee implications associated with the recommendations in this report as this work will be undertaken by existing employees.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. Costs associated with the introduction of CSFZs will be met from the Scottish Government Grant: Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes.

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 9.1. It is anticipated that the proposed scheme will have a positive impact on the environment as the number of car journeys are expected to decrease. There is also the likelihood of less vehicles idling as parents and carers will leave the car and walk to meet their child. Schemes which promote active and sustainable travel have a positive impact on the environment by reducing reliance on private vehicles, supporting South Lanarkshire's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy. Air Quality monitoring of the sites will also be progressed.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1. There are no significant risks associated with this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 11.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 11.2. Feedback from the consultation exercise undertaken has been provided in Appendices 2 and 3.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

22 October 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve the road network, influence improvements in public travel and encourage active travel
- ◆ Make communities safer, stronger and sustainable
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Get it right for children and young people
- ◆ Focused on people and their needs

Previous References

- ◆ Road Safety Forum, 8 August 2019

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

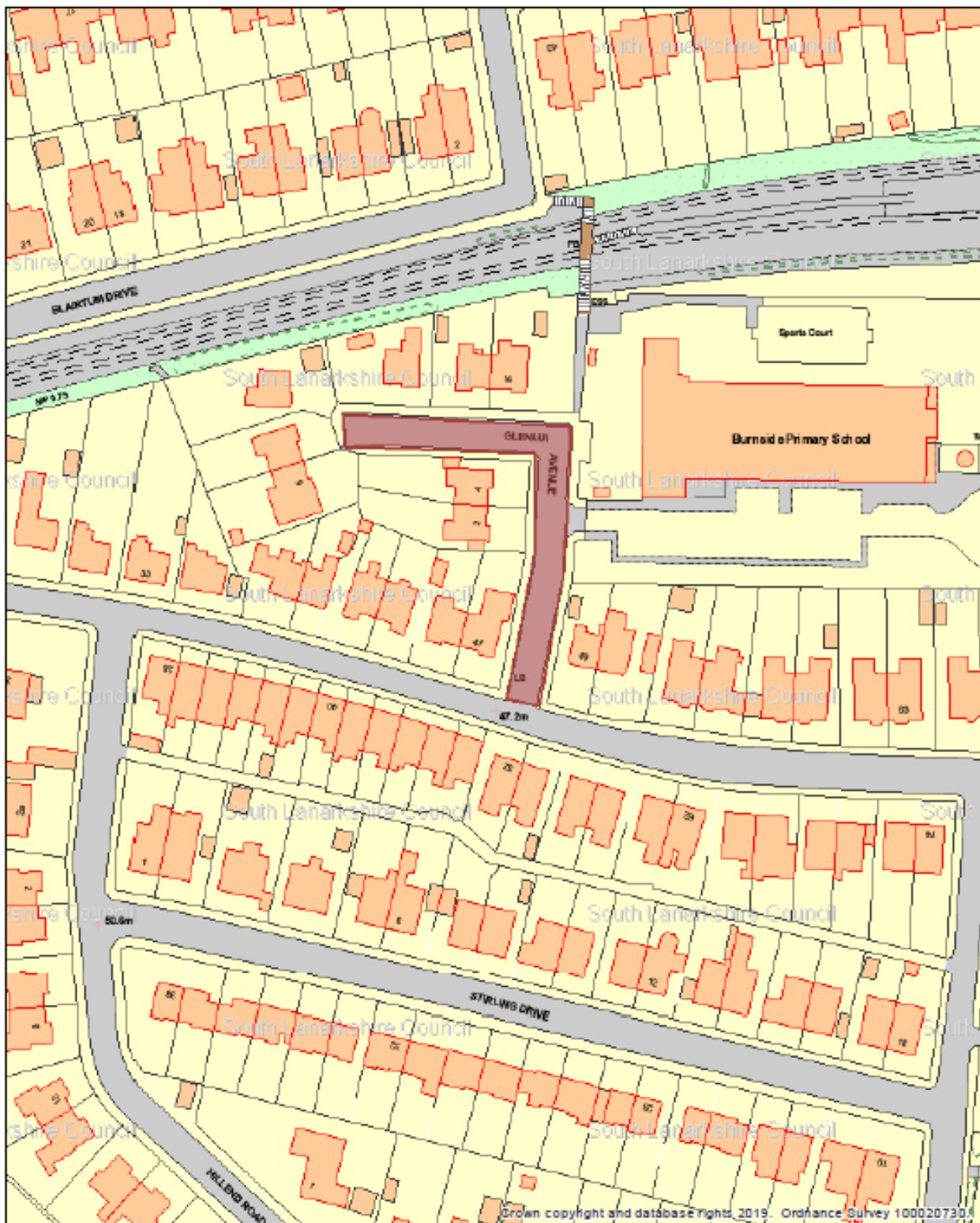
Colin Smith, Engineering Officer, Roads and Transportation Services

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E-mail: colin.smith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Zone Plans

Burnside Primary School



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Title: Glenlui Avenue, Rutherglen



South Lanarkshire Council

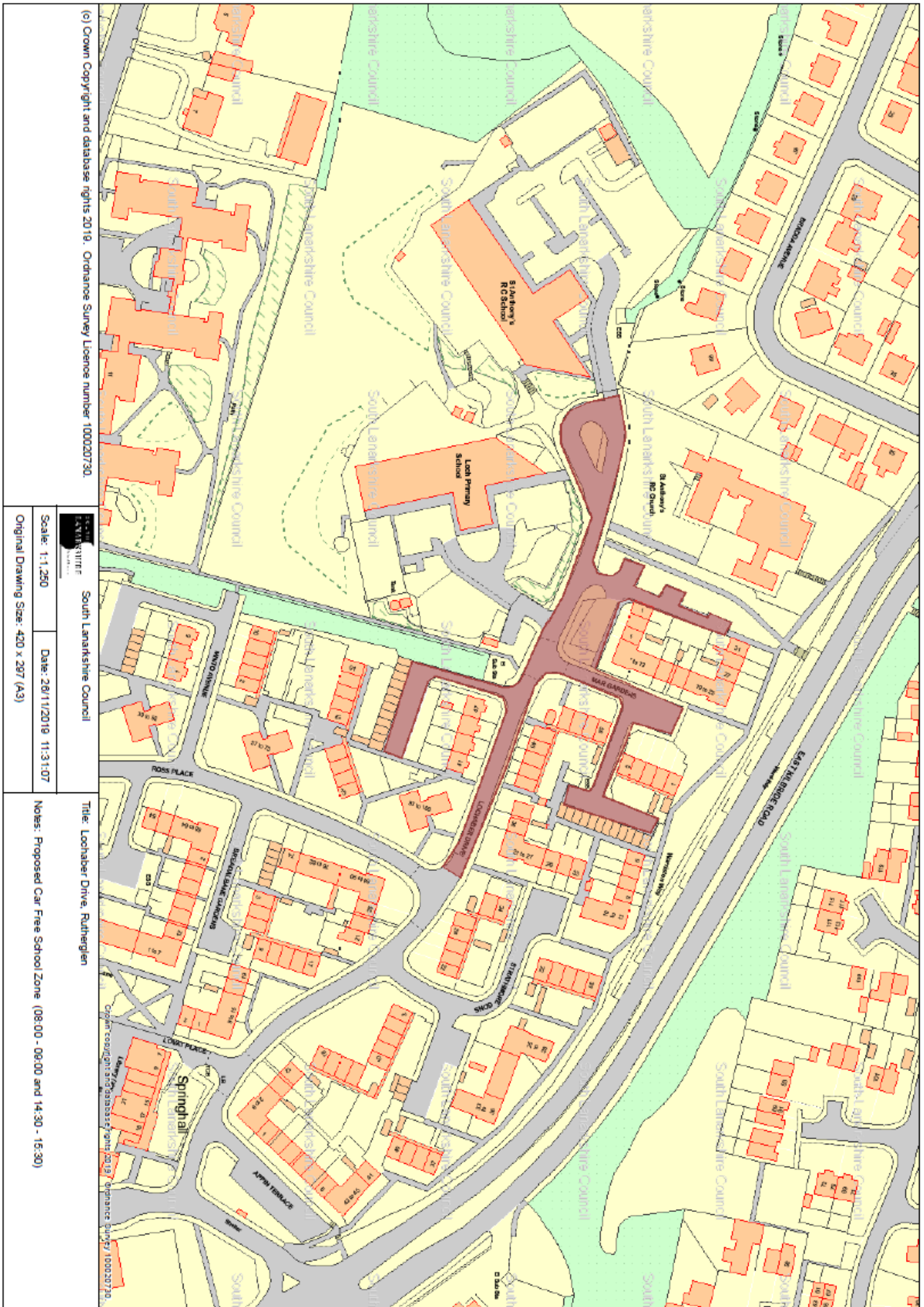
Notes: Proposed Car Free Zone
(08:00 - 09:15 and 14:30 - 15:30)

Scale 1:1,250

21/08/2019 10:01:50

Original Drawing Size: 210 x 297 (A4) (c)

Loch/ St. Anthony's Primary Schools



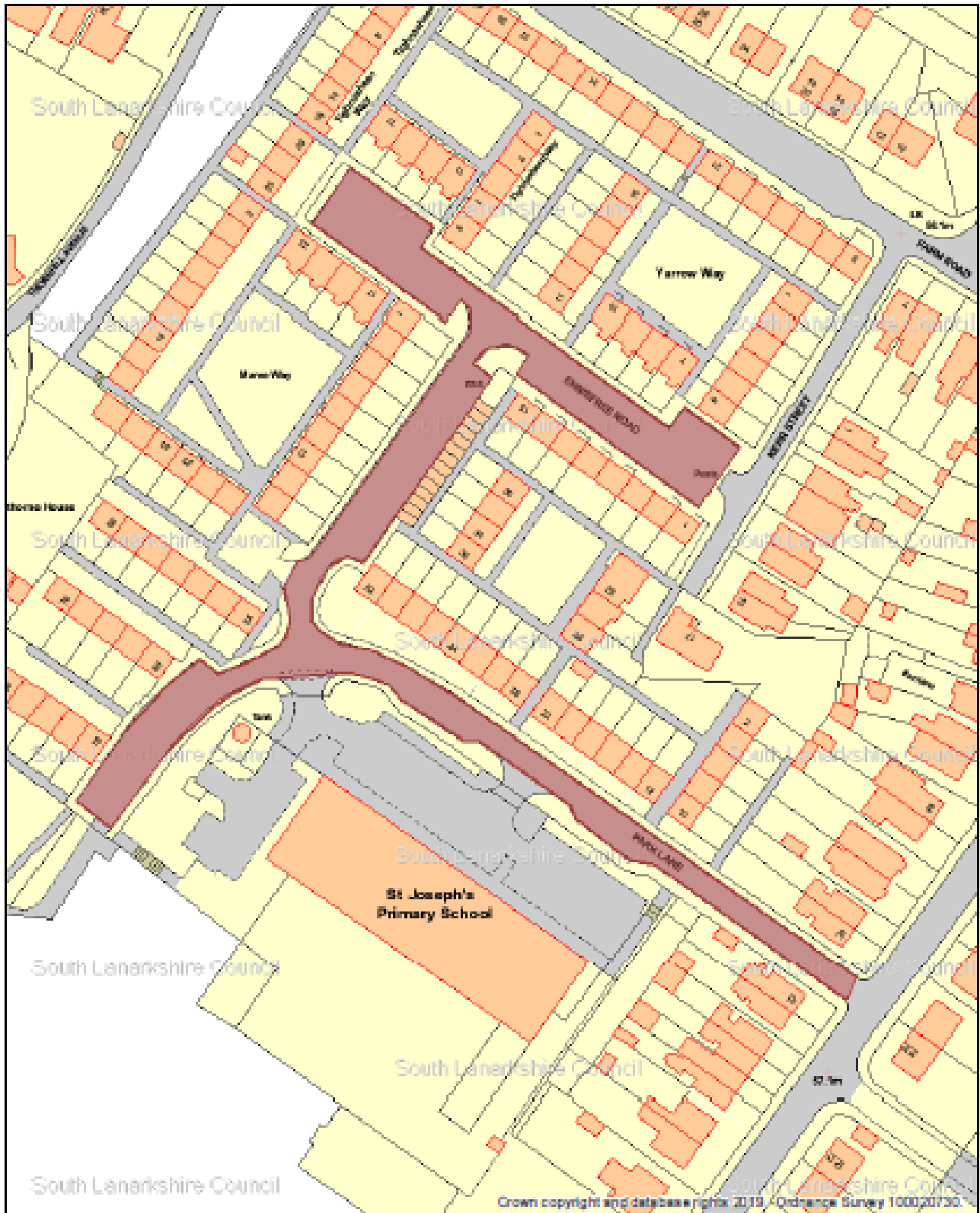
(c) Crown Copyright and database rights 2019. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100020730.

Scale: 1:1,250 Date: 28/11/2019 11:31:07
 Original Drawing Size: 420 x 297 (A3)

Title: Lochaber Drive, Rutherglen

Notes: Proposed Car Free School Zone (08:00 - 09:00 and 14:30 - 16:30)

St. Joseph's Primary School



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<p>Title: Park Lane, Blantyre</p>	 <p>South Lanarkshire Council</p>	
<p>Notes: Proposed Car Free Zone (08:00 - 09:00 and 14:30 - 15:30)</p>	<p>Scale 1:1,250</p>	<p>27/08/2019 09:46:38</p>
<p>Original Drawing Size: 210 x 297 (A4) (c)</p>		

Appendix 2 – Consultation Results by Zone

Car Free Zone Consultation November 2019

Summary of Consultation Feedback

Burnside Primary School –

59 resident letters sent.

104 respondents with 81% agreeing or strongly agreeing to the proposal.

Most comments left, with 22 for each point:-

Agree with Scheme

Scheme should be extended to include other streets

St. Joseph's Primary School –

117 resident letters sent.

Just 20 respondents with a 50/50 split on agreeing/disagreeing with the proposal

Most comments left, with 5:-

Other options should be considered

Loch/St. Anthony's Primary Schools –

93 resident letters sent.

90 respondents with 75% disagreeing with the proposal

Most comments left, with 22:-

Working parents don't have the extra time required to walk the extra distances

The next highest comment, with 16 was:-

Disagree with the scheme

In addition the Parent Council for St. Anthony's Primary has specifically requested to be withdrawn from the pilot scheme.

Appendix 3 - Summary of all Consultation Comments

- Problem will move elsewhere – 40
- Agree with scheme – 29
- Working parents do not have the extra time required – 26
- Times of operation should be altered - 22
- Disagree with scheme – 19
- Other options should be considered – 17
- Needs more Police presence – 15
- Should be extended to other streets – 15
- Children cannot walk unaccompanied – 11
- Physically infirm cannot manage the extra distance - 11
- Needs more parking enforcement – 11
- Proposed drop off has inadequate spaces – 9
- Makes the situation more dangerous – 8
- Parking is not an issue – 8
- Other areas are more of a problem 8
- Create a one way road through road to East Kilbride Road – 7
- Who will supervise Children if they are dropped off early? – 6
- Pavements/Roads need gritting in winter – 5
- It is the residents that cause the issues – 5
- Stranger Danger – 5
- Should be able to drop off in the school car park – 5
- Stagger finishing times to ease congestion – 4
- Double standards for Pupils and Teachers – 4
- Insufficient parking in the area – 3
- Proposed route from the drop off is unsuitable – 3
- It is just penalising parents who have to drive – 3
- School staff should be exempt – 3
- Cars idling are an issue – 3
- There should be a school bus from the park and stride site – 2
- East Kilbride Road drop off should be introduced first – 2
- Needs a School Crossing Patroller - 2
- Inappropriate vehicles for the street – 2
- Taxis are an issue and should not be exempt – 2
- Proposed drop off eats into public green space – 1
- Could a walking bus be introduced? – 1
- The only usable car park is within the zone – 1
- Improve residents parking facilities to get them off the road – 1
- Unclear on proposal – 1
- Taxis should be allowed access – 1
- Medication is required to be dropped off at school – 1
- Wish to opt out – 1
- SCP in the wrong place – 1
- Residents should not be disadvantaged – 1
- Won't stop persistent offenders – 1
- The residents choose where to live and should put up with it – 1
- Should not allow placements so far from the school – 1
- Too bureaucratic to administer permits – 1
- Overgrown hedges/vegetation narrow footways – 1