

Motion by Ward councillors

Transport & Environment Committee

27 January 2022

Sciennes Primary playground on Sciennes Road

This Committee;

1. Notes the longstanding and ongoing challenge of providing adequate playground space for children at Sciennes Primary school and that this motion has been submitted on behalf of all four Southside-Newington ward councillors with the support of Sciennes Parent Council;
2. Notes that because building works at Sciennes primary school have required use of the existing playground for portacabins, agreement has been reached with the Council to extend the play area into Sciennes Road in front of the school on a temporary basis and that this has been implemented, with some actions outstanding;
3. Notes that with the move of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children to Little France, it has been possible to close Sciennes Road to vehicular traffic without significant disruption to traffic flows, although passage for pedestrians and cyclists through the new play area has been maintained, resulting in some concern over welfare of pupils and the need for additional school staff to be present while the play area is in use;
4. Requests that council officers bring forward a report on closing Sciennes Road to traffic in front of Sciennes Primary school on a permanent basis to provide adequate playground space for the school in the long term, using the most appropriate mechanism such as Traffic Regulation, Stopping-Up or Redetermination Order etc;
5. Requests that in the meantime, while a permanent closure is investigated, that all practical measures are taken to make the temporary, partial closure safe and secure for children, including signage and road painting as previously agreed, and also exploring closing the road to pedestrians and cyclists during use of the play area during school time;
6. Requests that appropriate council officers meet with ward councillors and parent council representatives as soon as possible to progress this matter and that a members' briefing is provided to this committee and ward councillors by the end of March.

Moved by: Cllr Steve Burgess on behalf of Southside Newington Ward councillors