



Photo and artwork credit: Amelia Rowe

Kilbarchan Pocket Place

Project Summary

Sustrans partnered with Renfrewshire Council and Kilbarchan Community Council in June 2019 to June 2020 to co-design and trial changes to the street outside Kilbarchan Primary School. The project encouraged more active travel and created a safer environment. The community were involved through on site events and remote activities from start to finish, overcoming lockdown restrictions.

Objectives

- Improve accessibility and safety and encourage more people to travel to and from school, by foot, bike or wheeling.
- Improve the public space on Meadside Avenue and make it feel safer and a more attractive place to walk to and wait at both ends of the school day.

Collaborative Design

In-person events and later online engagement activities (during Covid lockdowns) helped to maintain momentum on this project and bring the community together around designing a safer school street.



Presented three visualisations



Street audit & workshops with school children, older persons' crafting group, residents and councillors.



Trialled interventions with street kit and promoted online in lockdown.

Supporting Schools and Local Communities



The wider community was involved throughout, helping decide how to tackle issues.



Unique designs were created using children's ideas and artwork.



Successful on-street trial led to more permanent changes to improve road crossing and general safety.



Direct inter-generational work empowered young people to make the changes they wanted to see.



The temporary interventions provided learning that Renfrewshire Council applied during the Covid-19 response - 'Spaces for People'.



Photo and artwork: Amelia Rowe
Bench and canopy: Glasgow Wood Recycling

Informing the Design

The project plan was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, but early engagement work and strong support for the project meant that work continued even remotely during lockdown.

Amelia Rowe, a local artist, was commissioned to work with pupils on designs. During lockdown engagement and learning was conducted via PowerPoint and Youtube and aligned to STEM curriculum.

“The pupils have been involved from the start; identifying and discussing what could be improved, moving on to designing and planning for change, resulting in the finished product of which we are all so proud!”

Fiona Mackenzie, Head Teacher,
Kilbarchan Primary School

Project Delivery

The monitoring of the traffic speed and volume of the trial build outs produced notable findings, highlighting a decrease in average traffic speeds and a slight decrease in traffic volume. The post monitoring survey was taken just prior to lockdown in March 2020, before schools closed, however, general traffic may have been influenced.

Permanent build outs for the crossing were installed following a successful trial. A pocket park was developed at the corner of the street for residents and parents, to increase accessibility, particularly for people with lower mobility who need a rest stop at the top of the hill. The pocket park was made by a local social enterprise using reclaimed materials.

Artwork on the theme of traveling actively to school was installed on the school fence. A canopy shelter was also installed for waiting parents and children creating a colourful spot to meet and discouraging vehicle use for school pick ups.



Enabling children to advocate for better streets



Sustrans street kit demonstration



Build outs installed in the location of the street kit

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