

BCP Play Street Guidance

March 2026



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Version: 1

Review date: 25/03/26



1. Objective

This guidance outlines a clear and consistent method for enabling play street applications. It specifies the Council's expectations and the requirements for those interested in initiating a play street.

The establishment of a play street will promote and support play, physical activity, leisure, and sports opportunities for all generations within the community, including children, young people, and families.

Play streets involve temporarily closing a street (or section of a street) to traffic, allowing children to play safely.

There is lots of further free advice and resources on the Playing Out website [Welcome - Playing Out](#), including [Play streets in four simple steps - Playing Out](#) and [FAQs - Playing Out](#)

2. Play Street applications

Applications should be submitted by a single resident representing the street (the lead applicant/organiser). Before applying for a play street, the lead applicant must consult with their neighbours in writing (a template letter is available on the BCP Council website). Note the lead applicant/organiser should attempt to resolve any objections from residents before submitting the application.

The Council will review significant objections to play streets during the application process if the lead applicant/organiser has been unable to resolve them.

It is recommended that play streets occur with a maximum duration of 3 hours and the most common frequency is once a month per street. Some streets close once a week and some once a fortnight. Some only a few times a year.

Applicants must agree to all terms and conditions outlined in the play street application form. The deadlines for application windows are given on the BCP Council website.

The lead applicant/organiser is responsible for ensuring

- that the road closure and re-opening of the road is managed safely and using the correct signage
- that there is no permanent damage to the public highway
- that parents are aware they are responsible for their own children as on any other day

3. Risk assessment

It is recommended that the lead applicant/organiser conducts a risk assessment to identify potential risks associated with the proposed event(s) and the measures to be implemented to address or mitigate those risks. A template can be found on the BCP Council website or on the Playing Out website.

4. Public Liability Insurance

It is recommended that the lead applicant/organiser secures public liability insurance from a reputable insurer for the period of the road closures. Public liability insurance does not alter the statutory obligations and liabilities of the Council in managing the public highway or highway network. The applicant should consider their risk assessment when determining whether public liability insurance is an appropriate control measure. Information can be found on the [Welcome - Playing Out](#) website.

5. Stewarding

The lead applicant/organiser must ensure that each road closure is overseen by two stewards at each end and one floating steward in the middle of the closure. The road closures must be maintained at all times by responsible and clearly identifiable adults wearing high-visibility jackets. Any vehicles that wish to gain access to the closed section of the road should be restricted to walking pace and be guided by a steward.

There is no obligation to close the street every time there is permission to do so for a play street. The play street should only proceed if there are enough people available to safely manage the event.

6. Signs and barriers

The lead applicant/organiser will be responsible for putting up the Public Notices and for supplying and arranging the installation and storage of the ROAD CLOSED signs and physical barriers, such as a wheelie bin or cones at each point of closure. Residents can also purchase Playing Out's [helpful 'Street Play' kit](#) which has lots of useful equipment.

7. Network management

Not all residential streets are suitable for play streets. Applications will only be approved if the following conditions are met:

- There are no planned works at the specified location(s) on the proposed dates/times. If so, the play street may need to be suspended.
- There is no other planned event on the requested dates e.g. parade, street party
- There is no significant effect on vehicular access and/or movement on surrounding roads.
- On the day of requested closure the road is not on a bus route.

Access must be provided for residents, pedestrians, and emergency services during any closure period. Any vehicles wishing to gain access to the closed section of the road will be restricted to walking speed and guided by a steward once the carriageway is clear of children playing. On-street parking will not be refused or restricted during the play street event.

The layout should be such that a clear route along the road can readily be made available for the passage of emergency vehicles. Fire hydrants and hydrant marker posts should be kept clear of obstruction.

A traffic order made for the purposes of a play street may not be used for any other activity.

8. Document review

The guidance and its processes will undergo an annual review to account for changes in national legislation, guidance, or best practices. Additionally, reviews may be conducted in response to other external factors or local considerations.