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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clean Air Day prompts action on Car Free Day



As Clean Air Day prompts [bold new announcements](#) from Sadiq Khan on his plans for Car Free Day, two more London councils have signed up to the Car Free Day Play Street Pledge.

London Play has confirmed that Islington and Hounslow have joined the 16 other boroughs that signed up to the [Car Free Day Play Street Pledge](#) last month outside City Hall. The pledge commits them to promoting, supporting and approving as many play streets as they can to mark the global event on Sunday 22 September.

Play streets are simple, resident-organised events where neighbours on a road agree together to close their street temporarily, but regularly, to through traffic. This allows children to play, while adults watch and get to know each other better over a cup of tea. They are already happening all over London and further afield – and offer an easy way for people to participate in World Car Free Day. It's hoped at least 200 streets across the capital will be transformed into temporary play spaces on the day, Sunday 22nd September.

Cllr Claudia Webbe, Islington's Executive Member for Environment and Transport said: "Islington is proud to sign the Play Street pledge. We are working to make Islington a

healthier and more enjoyable borough for everyone to walk and cycle and where streets and roads provide places for play and where communities can come together. That is why we are encouraging as many residents as possible to sign up for Play Street to celebrate World Car Free Day with us. Together we can reclaim the streets for people, not cars and provide safe, traffic and pollution free places for all our children to play.”

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan said: “London is leading the way in innovative measures to improve air pollution and I want this year’s Car Free Day events to be the best of any world city. This will be a great opportunity for us all to leave our cars behind and explore our streets by foot, or by bike.”

Fiona Sutherland of London Play said: “Car Free Day play streets will give people the opportunity to witness a transformation on their doorstep, when cars no longer dominate what we often forget is valuable public space. For a few hours, children, whose lives are most negatively affected by traffic, will take priority. We hope that it will be the beginning of long-term change.”

Charity London Play has been leading the capital’s play street revival for the past decade and Transport for London is providing funding that will enable it to help more Londoners to trial play streets on Car Free Day. It is hoped that the experience of seeing their street in a new light, as valuable community space rather than parking space for cars, will inspire many to go on to apply for regular play street closures following the September event.

Anyone who wants to see their street become a play space on Car Free Day will need to consult their neighbours and apply to their local council well in advance of the day. Applying is free, but the process differs from borough to borough and London Play will help by advising on the various procedures; supporting with materials for promoting and consulting on play streets; and for early applicants, providing play equipment to kick start the fun. Additionally, all streets taking part will go into a prize draw to win an on street go kart building session.

Those interested in turning their street into a play space on Car Free Day should get in touch with London Play via info@londonplay.org.uk or call 0203 384 8510. And it is not too late for councils to sign up to the pledge! Get in touch using the same details.

Notes to editors

1. London Play is a small charity that strives to get more children in London playing out more often. We promote children's right to play, campaign for more and improved out-of-school play services for London's 1.8m children and young people, and support play providers in the capital. We also directly provide more play opportunities for children by supporting groups to develop play streets, building nature play areas and running events.
2. Play street legislation has been around since the late 1930s. Having peaked at around 700 across London and England in the 1950s, play streets had all but disappeared by the 80s with the rise in private car ownership. London Play has been leading the capital's play street revival since 2008; and has worked with more than two thirds of London boroughs and their residents to bring play back to the streets of London. One-off events like Car Free Day create a perfect opportunity for people to experience car free streets and the possibilities for other, community-enhancing uses of the valuable space outside their front doors.
3. The full wording of the play street pledge is as follows:
CAR FREE DAY PLAY STREET PLEDGE
 - We agree that streets are a valuable public resource
 - We would like to explore alternative uses for streets which act positively to bring communities together and reduce the dominance of cars, parked or moving.
 - We believe that World Car Free Day offers an ideal opportunity to try this out and will promote this with our residents
 - We will make it easy for local people to open their streets for play on World Car Free Day 2019. We will remove charges and minimise the bureaucracy involved
 - We will approve as many play streets as we can for Car Free Day 2019
4. The full list of London borough signatories to the pledge is:
 - Brent: Cllr Krupa Sheth, Cabinet Member for Environment
 - Camden: Cllr Adam Harrison - Cabinet member for improving Camden's environment
 - Croydon: Cllr Stuart King - Cabinet member for Environment, Transport & Regeneration
 - Ealing: Cllr Julian Bell – Council Leader
 - Enfield: Cabinet member for the Environment
 - Greenwich: Cllr Denise Scott-MacDonald - Cabinet Member for Air Quality, Public Realm and Transport
 - Hammersmith and Fulham: Cllr Wesley Harcourt – Cabinet Member for the Environment
 - Haringey: Cllr Sheila Peacock – Deputy Mayor
 - Hounslow (NEW): Cllr Hanif Khan - Cabinet Member for Transport and Corporate Property; and Cllr Katherine Dunne – Cabinet Member for Communities and Workforce
 - Islington (NEW): Cllr Claudia Webbe – Executive Member for Environment and Transport
 - Lambeth: Cllr Claire Holland – Deputy Leader and Member for Clean Air and the Environment
 - Lewisham: Cllr Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment
 - Newham: Cllr Zulfiqar Ali – Cabinet Member for Highways and Sustainable Transport
 - Redbridge: Cllr Jas Athwal – Council Leader
 - Richmond: Cllr Alexander Ehmman – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport, Streetscene and Air Quality
 - Southwark: Cllr Richard Livingstone – Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport Management & Air Quality
 - Tower Hamlets: Cllr Denise Jones – Cabinet Member for Health and Adults
 - Waltham Forest: Cllr Clyde Loakes – Deputy Leader
5. London Play is grateful for the support of Transport for London in funding its work to bring more of the capital's streets alive with play. Other funders include the National Lottery, Mayor of London, City Bridge Trust, and the Tudor Trust.

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