



Roads & Traffic

CHEATSHEET



Friends of
the Earth
Scotland

**In a traffic nightmare?
Need a safer street?
Take a look inside...**

Your Streets?

Have a think for a moment about where you live. How do you see your street? Is it a place where you can relax, chat to your neighbours and spend some enjoyable time? Or do you see your street as a place ruled by the car where you spend as little time as possible?

Cars have always ruled, right?

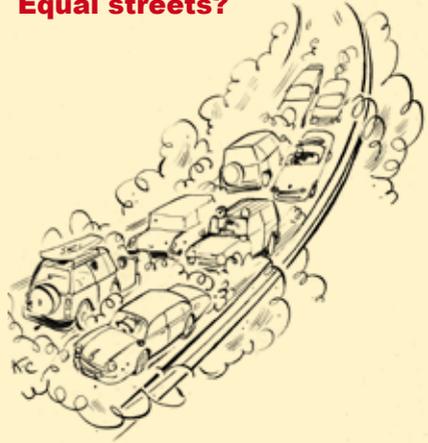
In the past, streets were social areas where people met, talked and traded with their neighbours and children played. In the last few decades, cars have become more and more common and the way we see and use our streets has changed. Cars now come first, and they make walking, cycling and socialising difficult.

What can we do?

Imagine a street designed for people: less traffic; more children playing; more trees and greenery; better public transport and an equal share of the street for all.

Read on for some ideas and tips that will help improve the streets you live on...

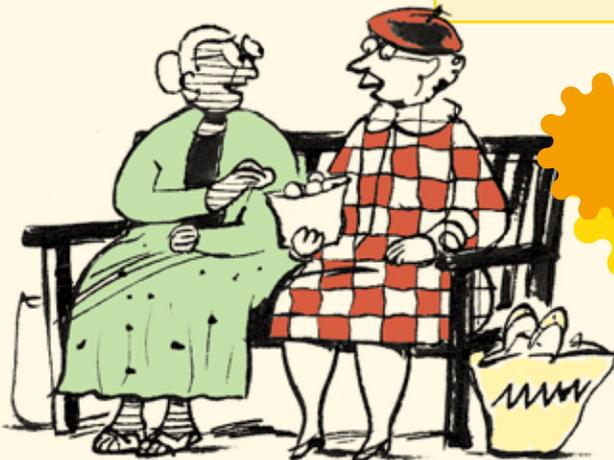
Equal streets?



It can seem strange, but roads sometimes make it difficult to get places! Confused?

If you don't own a car you probably understand. You might be tired of waiting on traffic islands, or taking a "long-cut" to use the crossing. Maybe you feel intimidated by drivers cutting into your cycle lane or revving their engines at amber lights.

If you do own a car, try walking or cycling one journey this week. Look out for all the things you have to do because on our roads "the car comes first".



Actions at Home

Cutting our personal car use makes the streets better for everyone.



How can I make less short car trips?

The really quick guide...

Squeeze-in or take a hike!

OK, the fairly quick guide...

- **Organise the household** – a more organised home doesn't mean it's run like the army but does mean less trips to the shops and more time for relaxing!
- **Combine your journeys** – if you're picking up the kids or coming back from work try to walk the dog or do the shopping at the same time.
- **Choose local services** – often you can find the products or services you want by shopping locally. Using local businesses boosts the local economy and makes you feel part of your community.
- **Use public transport** – Find out about your local services. Having the bus and train timetable at home means you can easily check when to go and saves a long wait at the bus stop.
- **Walk the kids to school** – your children will grown up with better road safety skills and more independence. They will be healthier and teachers say the walk to school even helps concentration in class.

Actions at Work

Many people have to travel to work but there are also ways to make that travel better for the local streets and environment.

I have to drive to work – what can I do?

Here's a few ideas to get you started...

- **Work with your employer** – talk to him or her about how you could reduce the number of cars used to commute.
- **Survey the workforce** – offer to find out how everyone gets to work and why they don't choose more environmentally friendly options. This can tell you the best way to improve people's travel habits.
- **Make a change** – some simple changes can convince people to cycle or use public transport. Advertise the bus and train timetables at work, provide a safe storage area for bikes or introduce flexi-time for people who could use those buses that arrive at 9-ish!



Actions for your neighbourhood

Streets designed for People

Home Zones are streets designed for the local residents. They give pedestrians, cyclists, children and locals a safer and more pleasant environment for living, socialising, playing and travelling.

Home Zones are expensive and only possible in some places, but all streets can be improved! With a group of neighbours create a vision for your street. What would you like to see? Community support is essential, so find out what others in the neighbourhood want and then ask your local authority (local council) to help fund your ideas.

Community street audits

Street Audits involve small groups of residents walking through local streets while noting down examples of things you like (the good stuff) and things you'd like changed (the bad stuff).

Street audits create ideas and demonstrate support from the local community for neighbourhood improvements. This support can be used to ask and pressure your local authority into spending its cash on the community's ideas.

Road and Traffic FAQs

You've just read a CheatSheet, a quick guide to road and traffic issues. It's a summary of a bigger guide called '**Road & Traffic FAQs**'. If you've got more questions or need more details on traffic problems and what action you can take



National Cycle Network Centre
2 Cathedral Square, College Green
Bristol BS1 5DD
Tel: 0845 113 00 65
info@sustrans.org.uk, www.sustrans.org.uk

Sustrans' Liveable Neighbourhoods project use community involvement and sustainable transport planning to put into action practical urban design projects in the UK.

liveableneighbourhoods@sustrans.org.uk



www.livingstreetsscotland.org.uk
www.livingstreets.org.uk
coordinator@livingstreetsscotland.org.uk
Phone: 01259 219235

Living Streets Scotland can provide help and advice to individuals and communities looking to improve their neighbourhoods, local streets and public spaces.

to improve your local roads '**Road & Traffic FAQs**' is for you – FAQ stands for Frequently Asked Questions!

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