

4 November 2016

Dear Resident/Business Owner

RE: Walthamstow Village Review - update

We are writing to update you on the Walthamstow Village Mini-Holland review which has been taking place over the past few months. Back in the summer we wrote to let you know we would be conducting this review to assess the scheme's impact against its core aims, which were to:

- reduce rat-running traffic, noise and pollution outside people's homes
- improve road safety
- make it easier for people who want to walk and cycle
- make the area more attractive for residents and visitors.

While this review is not a legal requirement when making road changes, we generally review any major schemes once they are complete to understand how the changes are working and whether the objectives have been met. We are also keen to know what the local community think of the changes made to the Walthamstow Village area. The review of the scheme has been taking place in two parts:

- Part one: collecting and analysing technical information such as traffic count and collision data
- Part two: seeking feedback from the local community and key stakeholders like the emergency services.

The external market research company has now finished its survey work so we would like to thank everyone who took the time to take part as your feedback on the scheme is really important.

We are currently going through all of the information the company collected including individual comments, and are still analysing a lot of the technical data. All of this will all be presented in a final report in early 2017 which will include a list of issues the review has highlighted that could still be refined, to improve the scheme. In the meantime we have provided some headline information below.

Who took part:

Residents, businesses and visitors:

- 1,389 residents in the area took part in either a face to face or online survey conducted by the external market research company – which represents 34 per cent of the scheme area
- 39 businesses in the area took part in a face to face survey with the external market research company
- 117 visitors took part in a face to face survey with the external market research company.

Resident and community organisations:

In September and October we met with the following Residents Associations and street representatives, community organisations, schools and stakeholder groups:

- Walthamstow Village, East Avenue, Wingfield and Randolph, and Folkstone Road Residents Associations
- Representatives from Church Lane, Grove Road, Pembroke Road and Eden Road
- East Avenue Mosque and Shernhall Methodist Church
- Almshouses
- St Stephen's Church and Stephen's House
- WFCC and E17 Streets for All
- Holy Family School

We are currently in the process of writing up and agreeing all meeting notes with the relevant groups over the next couple of weeks to be included in the final report.

Emergency Services:

We know that our engagement with the Emergency Services is a key concern for residents and by law we have to consult them when considering any highway changes. All three Emergency Services have been involved in the Mini-Holland Scheme from the outset and we meet with them regularly to discuss transport and highways issues across the borough. We recently met with each organisation to discuss the Walthamstow Village Scheme specifically. All three organisations stated that they generally support the objectives of the scheme and understand that the changes mean routes in and out of the area will have changed as a result. They have requested that we continue to update them with revised layout plans as early as possible so they can pass this onto their crews, and that we consider putting additional signage up where possible, showing how they can access properties. Through our regular discussions with them we have asked that they continue to raise any specific issues with us so we can look at these quickly and see what further adjustments might be needed.

Technical data:**Traffic Counts:**

We have now verified the traffic data collected before and after the changes and the number of vehicles recorded on 12 key roads within the area has reduced by 56 per cent. This compares to a 22 per cent reduction during the trial. We know that residents have been concerned about the impact that this scheme is having on nearby roads outside of the Village area, so we have also been looking at nearby main roads including Hoe Street and Lea Bridge Road. The data suggests that traffic levels on these roads have gone up by approximately 3 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.

This means that across the wider area (the Village and these nearby main roads), there are an average of 10,000 fewer vehicles every day, which represents a reduction in traffic of 16 per cent overall.

Collisions:

The information we have shows that there were 15 collisions on roads in the Village in the three years from September 2012 to the end of August 2015, and there have been no reported collisions from September 2015 to April 2016 – which is the latest information we have available. While this could be seen as positive, we are not drawing any conclusions from this yet as we only have a limited amount of information from after the changes were made. We will continue to monitor collisions in the area over the longer term as we do on all of our highway schemes.

We will continue to analyse the traffic count information in more detail over the next few weeks, including the number of people cycling, as well as collision information for the main roads and the other safety assessments that are being completed. All of this information will be included in the final report at the end of the year.

Traffic Orders

The scheme was put in place using a process called 'experimental' traffic orders, which enables a Council to monitor the effectiveness of any highway changes. These orders are valid for 18 months and by law, we are required to consider any objections received during the first six months of those orders being made. We will be responding to everyone who made an objection during that period and going through the legal process to make the orders permanent. Doing this does not prevent us from making further changes to the scheme that come out of the review process, if we need to change any aspect. If we need to make adjustments to the scheme that involve changing the traffic orders once they are permanent, we will do this through the normal traffic order consultation process.

What happens next?

We are aiming to publish the final report with recommendations in early 2017 and will write to you again when it is available. In the meantime you can find more information on the Walthamstow Village scheme and the review online at www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-your-area/walthamstow-village, or alternatively you can email your questions to enjoy@walthamforest.gov.uk.

Kind regards



Vala Valavan

Director of Highways and Traffic Management