

BLACKHORSE VILLAGE AREA WIDE IMPROVEMENTS



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Waltham Forest Council was one of three boroughs to be awarded £30million of funding from Transport for London (TfL) for the Mini-Holland Programme to make significant improvements to the borough and encourage more local people to walk and cycle.

Blackhorse Village is one of a series of residential areas in the borough being invested in as part of the programme to create places that are great to live, work and travel around. For the purpose of the programme this scheme has been named Blackhorse Village and forms part of the Mini-Holland Villages scheme.

The Blackhorse Village scheme is the area framed by Forest Road, Hoe Street, Selbourne Road and Blackhorse Road. A key feature of the scheme involves returning the streets to local people by preventing non-local traffic from cutting through the area whilst making the streets safer, quieter and more enjoyable.

The area consists of over 5,000 households and 2,000 school pupils, and is popular with people who walk and cycle accessing Blackhorse Road Station, Walthamstow Central Station, St James Street Station, Walthamstow Market and the shopping centre.

The Blackhorse Village scheme aims to:

- Reduce the amount of non-local traffic using the area
- Improve the look, feel and safety of the streets for all road users
- Improve routes to and from local schools and other places of interest in the area
- Encourage people to use healthy modes of transport.

Working with residents and businesses

We understand the importance of early and on-going involvement with the local community to help shape the plans and have already started this engagement process by getting local people's ideas and feedback.

In March this year a perception survey was undertaken with the local residents to understand the concerns and aspirations within the area. Over 600 people took part in the survey and provided over 900 individual comments. The results can be found at www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-you-area/blackhorse-village.

This feedback was used to inform a design that was taken to a series of co-design workshops in May, where local people were given the opportunity to respond and provide us with their initial ideas and comments. Both the survey and co-design workshops have helped us to develop a design for the area that is based on the needs of local residents and businesses in the area.

Working with community services

We have been seeking the views of key services in the area including all the emergency services, schools, religious and community groups. We understand these groups play an important role within your community and are working with them to develop a scheme that improves the areas without impacting on their services. We will continue to engage with these groups throughout the consultation period.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

These engagement activities have allowed us to design a scheme which we believe will enhance and improve the Blackhorse Village area for all the community.

A proposal has been developed based on the results from the perception survey, co-design workshops, information on traffic movements and traffic survey data, and through the experience of the live trial held in Walthamstow Village last year. The proposal combines a mix of road closures, traffic direction changes, creation of shared public spaces and safety improvements.

The key elements of the proposal are shown on the map and outlined below. To ensure the proposed improvements are effective, they will be introduced in groups, and so the proposed improvements have been divided into three area based groups, Series A, Series B and Series C.

Road closures (modal filters)

We are proposing to introduce permanent road closures at the following locations to address the issues surrounding non-local traffic driving through the area. The road closures will also improve safety for local residents in particular children and the elderly, whilst providing a place suitable for playstreets and boosting community interaction. The closures will only affect motorised vehicles, and pedestrians and cyclists will be able to pass through the closures. Where a closure is installed, space will be provided to allow vehicles to turn around, access for other vehicles such as for deliveries and bin collections will be maintained and residents will still have access to their street. The closures will be designed with the help of local residents to ensure they are in keeping with their surroundings.

- Coleridge Road – near junction with Palmerston Road
- Erskine Road- between Gainsford Road and Melville Road
- Gaywood Road – near junction with Hoe Street
- Greenleaf Road – south of junction with Brookdale Road
- Hatherley Road – near junction with Westbury Road
- Hawthorne Road – near junction with Hoe Street
- Jewel Road – near junction with Hoe Street
- Northcote Road – near junction with Palmerston Road
- Pretoria Avenue – north of junction with Longfield Avenue
- Ruby Road – near junction with Hoe Street
- Somers Road – near junction with Westbury Road
- Suffolk Park Road – between Ickworth Park Road and Wellington Road
- Westbury Road – near junction with Hatherley Road.

Road closure improvement example:

RUBY ROAD

- Improved pedestrian access
- Improved route for people who cycle and new cycle parking
- Signage information to places of local interest
- Street trees, planting and places to sit
- Terrace spaces for local businesses
- Creating a gateway to the William Morris Gallery and Lloyd Park.



Traffic direction changes

In order to improve accessibility in the area we are proposing that the following roads undergo traffic direction changes:

- Chewton Road - make one-way eastbound
- Coleridge Road - make two-way
- Gaywood Road - make two-way
- Greenleaf Road - make one-way (northern section from school entry/exit up to Forest Road)
- Hawthorne Road - make two-way
- Jewel Road - make two-way (southern end)
- Longfield Avenue- make one-way westbound
- Pretoria Avenue - make one-way northbound (between Warner Road and Longfield Avenue)
- Pretoria Avenue - make two-way (between The Links and the proposed road closure)
- Rosebank Grove - make two-way (southern end)
- Ruby Road - make two-way
- Wellington Road - make one-way south (northern section)
- Wolsey Avenue - make two-way.

Creating a safer environment

Residents have told us that reducing the amount of speeding traffic and creating a safer environment in the scheme area are key priorities. In response, we are proposing to implement 'Copenhagen' style crossings at the entry junctions into the area to prioritise pedestrians and slow traffic, and improve the following key junctions.

- Greenleaf Road / Melville Road
- Northcote Road to Elmsdale Road (east to west route)
- Somers Road / Westbury Road
- Walpole Road to Coleridge Road (east to west route).



Example of a Copenhagen crossing

Junction improvement example:

NORTHCOTE ROAD TO ELMSDALE ROAD

- Traffic calming measures at Palmerston Road
- Improved east/west cycle and pedestrian crossings
- Cycle parking stands
- New terrace with trees and planting
- Place for contemplation near church.



New and improved public spaces

Based on the feedback and suggestions we received from the perception survey and at the co-design workshops, we have identified public spaces that we would like to develop with your help to enhance the look and feel of the area. The most popular proposals will be taken forward.

The proposals include:

BUXTON ROAD (Mission Grove School)

- Improved entrance space to school
- Safer crossing locations for pedestrians
- New cycle parking stands
- New local “pocket park” and meeting place to include trees, planting and playful elements
- Potential for a community project to create additional greening such as orchard, meadows and foraging spaces.



MISSION GROVE (outside school)

- Improved entrance space to school
- Safer crossing locations for pedestrians
- Wider footways and narrowed carriageway where possible
- New cycle parking stands.

**Mission Grove School
Buxton Road**

GREENLEAF ROAD

- Safer crossing locations for pedestrians, including raising the level for pedestrian access
- Traffic calming measures to help slow traffic
- Footways widened creating generous and more sociable access to the school and local play space
- Additional street trees, planting and cycle parking
- Potential for a community project to create additional greening.



**Greenleaf Road
Greenleaf School and Playground**

PRETORIA AVENUE

- Improved cycling and pedestrian access
- Traffic calming measures to help slow traffic
- New cycle parking stands
- Green, park-like environment at the entrance to the school with an avenue of trees
- Signage information to places of local interest
- New terrace with trees forming a link with Stoneydown Park.

BLACKHORSE ROAD / STONEYDOWN

- Landscaping and greening improvements
- Remove perimeter wall
- New wilderness planting such as meadow, wildflowers
- Log seating arrangements path
- Reduced access route for maintenance vehicles.

Area upkeep

A number of maintenance issues have been brought to our attention by residents. As part of this scheme we are pleased to be able to address a number of these. Work on the following will start in late 2015 and will continue over the next two years.

- Removal of redundant street signs to de-clutter the area
- Improvements to footways
- Road resurfacing in the following streets: Maude Road, Maude Terrace, Somers Road and Warner Road.

Bridge improvements / public art

Network Rail will be carrying out bridge replacement, refurbishment and parapet upgrades for a selection of the bridges within the scheme area.

Unfortunately the existing public art will be removed by Network Rail during their improvement works, but we are working with Network Rail to request that they fund new public art at these locations where feasible. If this is possible the public art will be developed in partnership with the local community.

Bridges that may receive new public art are:

- Ritchings Avenue
- Suffolk Park Road
- Vernon Road.

Consultation approach

We want everyone who lives and works in the local area to have their say on the scheme and help shape the proposals.



Pretoria Avenue

To help manage the consultation and feedback we receive, we are asking people to comment on groups of proposals rather than individual measures. We are asking you to rate what you think of the proposals as well as asking what else you would like to see. This will allow us to shape and develop a scheme that best suits the local community.

We want to hear your views

We hope you like the proposals described and shown on the map. We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed improvements to ensure the changes meet the needs of the local community.

Please provide feedback by 21 July 2015. Your feedback will help inform the final scheme.

There are a number of ways for you to have your say:

- By post - complete the questionnaire and return it using the free post envelope provided.
- Come and talk to us and view the plans on:
Tuesday 7 July between 6pm and 9pm
at William Morris Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Road, Walthamstow, E17 6QQ
Saturday 11 July between 2pm and 5pm
at Stoneydown Park Primary School,
Pretoria Avenue, Walthamstow, E17 6JY.

What happens next?

All of the feedback received will be carefully analysed and considered as part of our final design. We will produce a summary of the results and feedback to everyone who took part setting out the results and how they have been used.

For more information on the Mini-Holland Programme visit www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk.