

**Neighbourhood and Commercial**

**Strategic Director:** Michele Moloney

**4 August 2017**

Dear Resident / Business owner,

**RE: Forest Road scheme – Palmerston Road to Hoe Street update**

Thanks to funding from Transport for London (TfL), we're delivering a wide range of improvements to make our streets fit for everyone to use, whether you walk, cycle, use public transport or drive.

One of the key areas we are making improvements to is our network of walking and cycling routes, one of which is Forest Road. These routes aim to better connect areas within the borough such as our town centres and residential areas, making it easier for people to walk and cycle for local journeys.

**What has happened so far?**

In May 2015 we ran a perception survey to gain an understanding of what residents and businesses thought about the area and the type of improvements they would like to see. We then used these results to help us work up plans for the section of the road between Palmerston Road and Hoe Street based on what local people wanted.

In July 2016, we carried out a public consultation with the local community on our plans for this section of Forest Road. These plans can be viewed at [www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-your-area/forest-road](http://www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-your-area/forest-road).

Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation and provided feedback on the proposals. All of the comments have been considered and have allowed us to develop a final scheme that will benefit the local community and visitors to the area.

**Consultation results**

A full consultation summary can be viewed at [www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-you-area/forest-road](http://www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-you-area/forest-road) and here is an overview of the results:

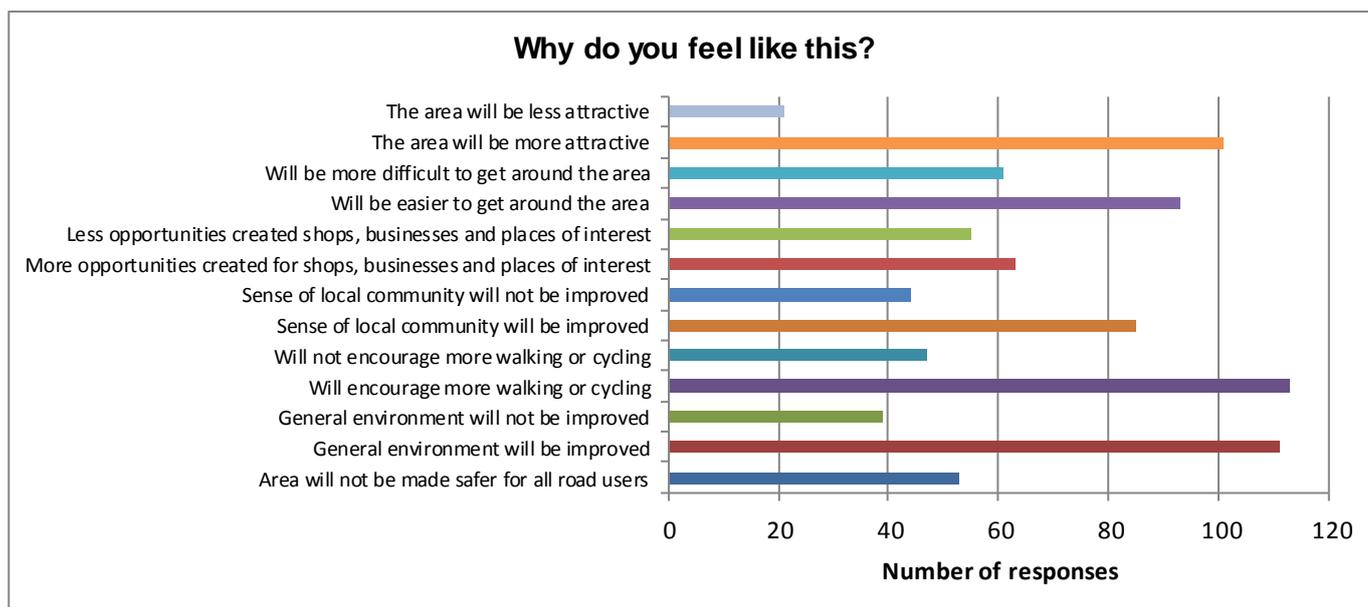
- Just under 6,000 consultation leaflets were delivered to the local area and a public drop-in session was held where 35 people came to view the plans and ask questions
- In total, 196 people responded to the consultation providing 244 individual comments
- Overall, 44 per cent of respondents were positive about the proposals, 27 per cent were neutral and 29 per cent were negative.

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Visit: [www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk](http://www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk)



The reasons behind respondents' feelings towards the proposals are shown below.



### The final scheme

Your feedback, along with all of the other ideas and suggestions we collected through speaking to residents and businesses over the past two years, has been valuable in helping us finalise the proposals, as well as raising key areas where changes can be made. Based on this, the following changes have been made to the scheme and a plan of the final scheme is attached to this letter.

### Changes to parking and bus stops

- The existing parking bays between 345 and 359 Forest Road, including those outside Clarkin's Car Accessories Ltd, will be retained and a floating parking arrangement will be provided to accommodate the new cycle track. A floating parking bay arrangement means that the cycle track will run in-between the footway and the parking bays, so that cyclists are separated from traffic by parked vehicles.
- The existing eastbound bus stop outside 381 to 385 Forest Road will be relocated west to outside 361 to 374 Forest Road. The relocation of the bus stop will improve visibility and safety for the new pedestrian crossing linking Bemstead Road to Geenleaf Road.
- The relocation of the above mentioned bus stop eastbound bus stop will require two parking bays to be removed. Three new parking bays will be created between South Countess Road and Holmes Avenue to ensure the existing parking provision is maintained.
- The existing parking bays on the southern side of Forest Road located between Jewel Road and Gaywood Road were proposed to be removed however we have been able to accommodate these spaces in the new design. Instead of replacing the parking bays with a fully segregated cycle track a new semi-segregated cycle track will run on the carriageway side of the bays to separate cyclists from motor vehicles without impacting on parking. Vehicles will still be able to access the bays at all times by driving over the semi segregated cycle track. Please see the images below for examples of semi and fully segregated cycle tracks.



*Example of a fully segregated cycle track*



*Example of a semi segregated cycle lane*

- Where loading / parking is being allowed along Forest Road there will be signs and markings in place to alert people to the changed conditions. In some of the loading areas drivers will need to cross the cycle lanes we are putting in when making deliveries, and these have been designed to accommodate this.
- Four residential parking bays at the southern end of Winns Terrace will be converted to short stay parking bays which allow for 30 minute parking / loading with no return within two hours. This will help improve access to local shops, Lloyds Park and the William Morris Gallery.
- The existing coach parking bay on Forest Road to the west of Hawthorne Road was proposed to be removed, however will be retained as the carriageway width can accommodate this parking.

### **Cycling and pedestrian crossings**

- To better connect Forest Road and provide direct access to the new crossing point linking Bemstead Road and Greenleaf Road we will be introducing two-way (contra-flow) cycling along Bemstead Road and Mersey Road. This will form part of future borough wide feasibility study which will investigate the safe provision of contraflow cycling on all one-way roads.
- We will also be introducing a new zebra crossing between Diana Road and Mersey Road to provide a safe crossing point for pedestrians.

### **What happens next?**

We'll start to make improvements to the area based on this design from late summer 2017. You'll begin to see our contractors on site and they'll be doing the work in stages to try to keep any disruption to a minimum for people living in the local area. Residents and businesses will receive notification letters one to two weeks in advance of work starting, explaining what is being done and any temporary parking and traffic management arrangements.

We will continue to monitor all of your feedback and suggestions, and will run safety checks to make sure the scheme is delivering what it is meant to. During and after the work, please feel free to continue sending us any feedback you have by emailing [enjoy@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:enjoy@walthamforest.gov.uk).

For more information on the Forest Road scheme or information on the walking and cycling improvements taking place across the borough visit [www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk](http://www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk).

Kind regards

**Vala Valavan**

Director of Highways and Traffic Management