

**Neighbourhood and Commercial**

**Strategic Director:** Michele Moloney

20 February 2017

Dear Resident/ Business Owner,

**Re: Construction of the new Linear Park on Markhouse Road between Boundary Road and Verulam Avenue**

I'm writing to let you know that work to widen the footway, improve the cycle lanes and create a new green space on Markhouse Road between Verulam Avenue and Boundary Road will start on 27 February 2017.

The work we will carry out aims to improve access for walking and cycling, road safety and the look and feel of the area. We sent you a letter last year explaining the results from the public consultation and inviting residents to attend a workshop to discuss the new green space in more detail. You can find this letter online at [www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-your-area/markhouse-road/public-consultation](http://www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-your-area/markhouse-road/public-consultation).

Thank you to everyone who attended the workshop. Based on your feedback the following will be introduced in this section of Markhouse Road:

- A two-way cycle track and footway through the existing green space, and a new one-way cycle track on the western side of Markhouse Road
- New street lighting
- New trees from a range of species as well as more plants to improve the attractiveness of the space and improve air quality (similar to Selbourne Road in Walthamstow)
- A 'planted area' along the eastern side of Markhouse Road to provide a green buffer that separates vehicles from pedestrians and cyclists
- An informal, natural play area featuring boulders and stepping stones to create a fun route for children
- A wider footway on the western side of Markhouse Road (near St Saviours Church) with an improved bus stop area, plus a larger bus stop area opposite Samantha Close
- A new shared cycle and pedestrian crossing near Boundary Road and Theydon Street
- Bins to help keep the area clean and tidy.

Further details and plans for the scheme can be viewed online at [www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-your-area/markhouse-road](http://www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-your-area/markhouse-road).

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



As part of these improvements to Markhouse Road we are removing 26 of the existing 57 trees to make the green space more usable and to make space for the new footway and cycle track. Before starting any work we commissioned an independent condition survey on the trees, which found 21 of the trees to be dying, infected or dangerous and encroaching on the public highway. In addition another four of the trees were found to only have 10 years of life remaining and an inappropriate species for the highway.

We will replace all of the trees removed with a more suitable species and plant them in more suitable locations. The new trees will include a range of species to help improve biodiversity, air quality and the attractiveness of the space. We will also be looking to plant more trees throughout the Markhouse Road area.

To keep work on track the changes will be made in phases. The trees will be removed first between 9.30am and 3pm, Monday to Saturday and will take two weeks to complete, weather permitting. The remaining work will take place after the tree removal, and a further notification letter will be sent closer to these works starting. Tree planting will occur soon after in October during the planting season.

To allow us to carry out the road works safely and on time, traffic management may be in place to let you know of any diversions or restrictions. Look out for signs and cones in the area during this time.

Please bear with us over the next few weeks so we can make these improvements to the area as soon as possible. Our contractors will be working to keep disruption to an absolute minimum and we will post regular construction updates online at [www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-your-area/markhouse-road/construction-updates](http://www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-your-area/markhouse-road/construction-updates).

Thank you for your patience and in the meantime, if you wish to discuss this construction work please contact me on 020 8496 4208 or email [jon.russell@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:jon.russell@walthamforest.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

Jon Russell  
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London Borough of Waltham Forest