

HAVE YOUR SAY ON IMPROVING FOREST ROAD

Waltham Forest is changing and we want you to be part of it. Thanks to a funding pot of £27million from Transport for London, we're delivering the Mini-Holland Programme to make our streets fit for everyone to use, whether you walk, cycle, use public transport or drive.

We want to hear your views on:

- **The Ferry Lane to Forest Road (Walthamstow Wetlands) section of works**
- **The Blackhorse junction to Palmerston Road section of works**



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WALTHAM FOREST

www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk

The Mini-Holland Programme is about making our streets work for everyone and our borough a better place to live, work and travel. By creating designated space for cycling, creating routes that better connect our town centres and redesigning some of our public areas, we want to help cut down unnecessary traffic outside your home, and provide safer and healthier travel options so that people enjoy living and spending time in the borough.

Between 2010 and 2014 there were 181 collisions on Forest Road and air pollution in Waltham Forest is on the increase. At peak times of the day, we have up to 6,000 extra cars on our borough's roads due to the school run making our roads more congested than ever before. We need to do something about this so that everyone can get from A to B easily and safely.

What's planned for Forest Road?

The Mini-Holland Programme is made up of a 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. The routes also help connect Waltham Forest to our neighbouring boroughs, attracting visitors and boosting business for our local economy.

Forest Road is a busy route used by up to 17,000 vehicles daily, and is home to around 3,600 residents and 340 businesses. It's a key route in Waltham Forest connecting Woodford New Road to Ferry Lane, and is already an important walking and cycling route that helps people get to key places like the William Morris Gallery, Lloyd Park, Walthamstow Wetlands and other local facilities.

Over the last few years Forest Road has seen a 56 per cent increase in people cycling to get around. To make this road safer for all road users we're planning to make the following improvements:

- Upgrade all major junctions
- Improve and create new pedestrian and cycle crossings to make the area safer and more accessible to people who walk and cycle
- Upgrade and relocate bus stops to bring bus facilities up to Transport for London's standards and make it easier for disabled people and people with push chairs to get on and off buses
- Introduce new blended 'Copenhagen' crossings at all side road junctions, giving pedestrians a continuous pavement rather than a traditional kerb that they need to wait at before crossing the side road. These crossings encourage vehicles to slow down when entering and exiting the side road, ensuring that pedestrians or people cycling have right of way, as per the Highway Code
- Create segregated cycle lanes which create separate, designated space for cycling – making it safer and easier for cycles and vehicles to share the road
- Invest in new public spaces, making Forest Road more enjoyable to use, and benefiting residents, businesses and visitors to the area.

Also, with Walthamstow Wetlands due to open in spring 2017, we will work with Haringey Council to improve the overall environment of Forest Road between Ferry Lane and Blackhorse Road junction.

Walthamstow Wetlands will offer access to 200 hectare of unique wetland nature reserve land and is predicted to attract 250,000 visitors a year. This investment to Walthamstow Wetlands will significantly benefit residents and visitors to both Waltham Forest and Haringey.

We'll also improve the cycle connection between Blackhorse Road junction and Tottenham Hale, making the area more accessible for the 250,000 people predicted to visit Walthamstow Wetlands yearly. More information on the Wetlands is available by visiting www.walthamstow-wetlands.org.uk.

What has happened so far?

In May 2015, we sent a survey to all addresses in the scheme area and spoke with local businesses to understand your concerns and how we can use the Mini-Holland funding to deliver what you want in your local area.

Over 301 residents and 52 businesses took part, providing over 540 individual comments which we analysed and used to shape the next stage of the plans. The results can be found at www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-your-area/forest-road.

Since this survey, we have also been looking at important information about how Forest Road is used including traffic flow, collision statistics and public transport. By using this information as well as your ideas and feedback, we are aiming to create a scheme that makes it easier for people to get around without negatively impacting traffic flow in general.

We have been speaking to key stakeholders including the emergency services to make sure the proposals work for them, and we will continue to engage with them as the scheme progresses.

Giving your views on the proposed design

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

To help manage the consultation stage of the Forest Road scheme effectively, we have split the route into sections and will consult on each section between now and the end of 2016. By splitting the route into sections we are able to spend more time finding out what local people think of the designs near to them, so that the finished road reflects what people want. By doing things in stages, we can also minimise the impact on residents when construction takes place.

The following table breaks down the sections and consultation dates so that you know when you can get involved.

Section of Forest Road	Consultation dates
Ferry Lane to Forest Road (Walthamstow Wetlands)	29 February to 20 March 2016
Blackhorse Road junction to Palmerston Road	29 February to 20 March 2016
Palmerston Road to Hoe Street	Summer 2016
Blackhorse Road junction	Autumn 2016
Hoe Street to Wood Street	Autumn 2016

This consultation document is for the first two sections listed in this table. Please read each proposal listed in this leaflet, and tell us your thoughts on each one by visiting <https://frproposals.commonplace.is> or completing the accompanying questionnaire, if you requested a hardcopy leaflet. Depending on how much you write, we expect the survey to take no more than 10 minutes to complete. **Please complete your feedback by 20 March 2016.**

1. Proposals for Ferry Lane to Forest Road (Walthamstow Wetlands) section

The key elements of the proposals are shown on the map on page five and outlined below.

A. NEW AND IMPROVED PUBLIC SPACES

Results from the perception survey in May 2015 showed that 66 per cent of respondents would like to see more plants and trees on Forest Road to make it more pleasant for walking and cycling. Introducing plants and trees into an area, as well as improving and creating public spaces, helps make local people proud of where they live, and encourages people to spend more time in the area and shop locally.

2. Proposals for Blackhorse Road junction to Palmerston Road section

The key elements of the proposals are shown on the map on page seven and outlined below.

A. CREATING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

Results from our perception survey in May 2015 showed that 80 per cent of people who took part felt that some parts of Forest Road felt unsafe. To address this, we want to make a number of road safety improvements, to help you get about more easily.

Proposals include:

- Upgrade the pedestrian and cycle crossing point by Pretoria Avenue and move it from where it is to the other side of Pretoria Avenue near the row of shops (numbers 88 and 159 Forest Road).
- Introduce a new style of crossing called blended 'Copenhagen' crossings on all side roads open to motor vehicles. These crossings, which prioritise pedestrians at junctions, are popular in Europe and extend the pavement across the side street giving pedestrians a continuous pavement rather than a traditional kerb that they need to wait at before crossing the side road. These crossings encourage vehicles to slow down when entering and exiting the side road, ensuring that pedestrians or people cycling have right of way, as per the Highway Code. Exact locations are shown on the map on page seven.
- Reduce the speed limit along the full road from 30mph to 20mph. This is part of the Council's commitment to reduce speeds across the borough.

B. CYCLING IMPROVEMENTS

To help people make local journeys by bike, we are proposing to improve the existing local cycle network – the lanes and cycle paths we currently have. The plans are to create new cycle lanes and protected cycle lanes which are separated from traffic, new road signs, and more cycle stands, as well as tying this all in with the wider Mini-Holland Programme so people can get from one area to another more easily.

Proposals include:

- Introduce segregated cycle lanes on both sides of Forest Road to help people cycle safely between Blackhorse Road junction and Palmerston Road. Segregated cycle lanes create separate, designated space for cycling – making it safer and easier for bikes and vehicles to share the road. The type of cycle lane being installed in this section is called a 'stepped track', and is built lower than the pavement but higher than the road, separating cycles from both motor vehicles and pedestrians.
- Current access to off street parking and drop kerbs will stay the same.

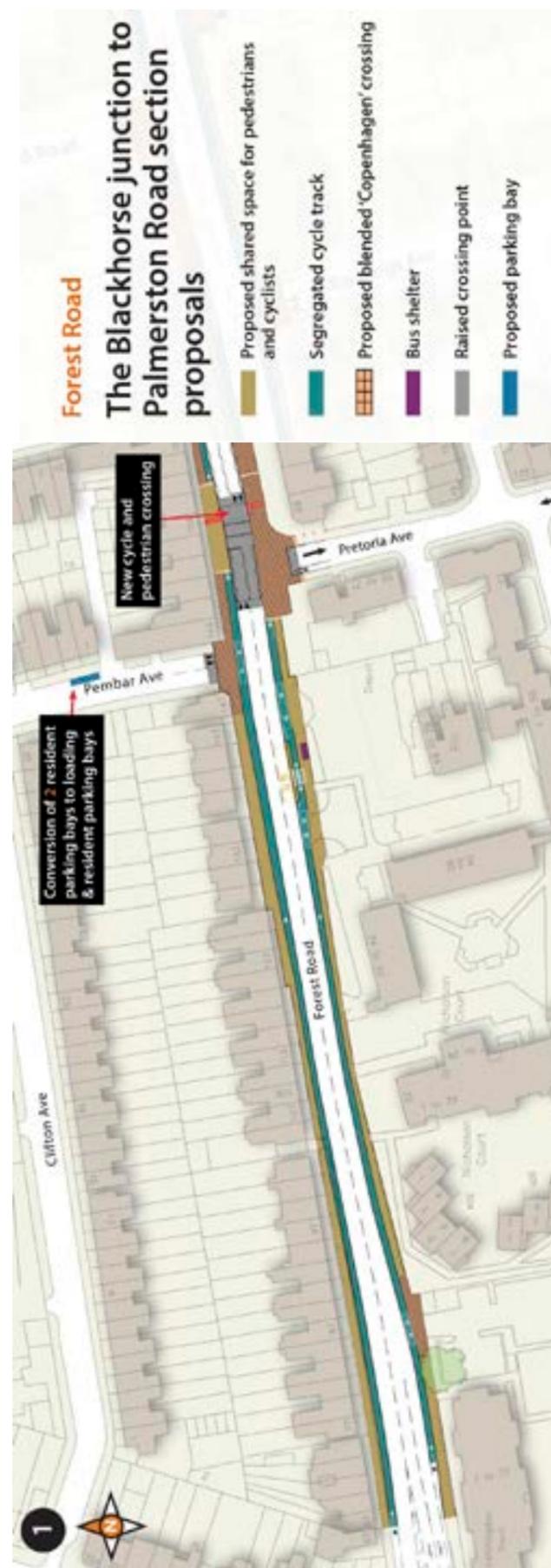
C. BUS STOP UPGRADES

We want to help improve the reliability of bus services and meet TfL's accessibility standards better to support elderly or disabled passengers, as well as people with push chairs. To do this, improvements will be made to bus stops, which will be designed in conjunction with the new cycle tracks. Our aim is to improve public transport in the area so that more people choose to use it rather than always travelling by car, helping to relieve congestion. We will continue to liaise with TfL who will approve any changes to bus stops and bus lanes.

New bus stops and shelters will be introduced at the following locations, to make bus journeys more convenient and accessible:

- To the west of Pretoria Avenue outside Tesco Express (route towards Tottenham Hale)
- To the west of King Edward Road outside 185 and 187 Forest Road (route towards Walthamstow)
- To the west of Wellington Road outside 152 and 158 Forest Road (route towards Tottenham Hale)
- To the west of Palmerston Road outside 265 Forest Road (route towards Walthamstow).

Proposed improvements



D. PARKING AND LOADING IMPROVEMENTS

We know that parking and loading along Forest Road needs to meet the needs of local residents, and businesses who are vital to the local economy.

We have used feedback from the perception surveys and data gathered from parking surveys to understand the amount of parking and loading needed along this section of road.

Based on this information we are looking to remove and relocate some parking, ensuring we provide enough parking and loading, as well as cycle parking for visitors.

Proposals include:

- Remove the existing single yellow line between the Blackhorse Road junction and Palmerston Road junction and replace it with double yellow lines to stop vehicles from waiting and loading at any time
- Remove six short term parking bays located between 65–75 Forest Road to accommodate changes to the road
- Create four new dedicated loading and resident parking bays on Pembar Avenue (two spaces) and Century Road (two spaces) where shops are located, providing local businesses with space to unload goods and for residents to park
- Create three new short stay parking bays on Farnborough Avenue, so there are parking spaces available for people visiting the shops in this section.

Take part in the consultation

We hope you like the proposals and can see how they will benefit Forest Road for everyone. It's important that you help us shape the improvements by telling us your views. Please provide your feedback by **20 March 2016**.

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

- Online – visit <https://frproposals.commonplace.is> to complete the questionnaire and provide comments online
- Request a hardcopy of the consultation document and questionnaire by emailing miniolland@walthamforest.gov.uk or calling **020 8496 3000**
- Come and talk to us and view the plans on:
 - Tuesday 8 March between 6pm and 9pm at Willowfield School, Clifton Avenue, E17 6HL
 - Thursday 10 March between 6pm and 9pm at St Patricks Parish Hall, Blackhorse Road, E17 6NH.

What happens next?

All of the feedback received will be grouped, carefully analysed and used to shape the final design.

Where there are elements of the scheme that are not well supported by residents and businesses, we will look at these again. Where it's possible to make changes based on your comments and suggestions we will, and where we can't we will explain why. A summary of the results and feedback will be sent to everyone who took part after the public consultation stage has ended. This will set out the results and how they have been used to help shape the final design. This will also be available on the website for everyone to see.

Before we get to the design stage, Transport for London (TfL) will also need to approve all of our plans as the funders of the Mini-Holland Programme.

Giving your views on the other sections of Forest Road

We will notify residents when the consultation for the remaining sections of Forest Road is launching, and post the links to the survey on the Mini-Holland website www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk. Don't forget to sign up to our monthly email on the homepage and we'll notify you about upcoming consultations and give updates about the many projects we're working on.