

Neighbourhood and Commercial

Strategic Director: Michele Moloney

29 November 2016

Dear Resident/ Business owner,

RE: Forest Road – Blackhorse Road junction to Palmerston Road junction update

Thanks to Mini-Holland 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 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 the Blackhorse Road junction and the Palmerston Road junction based on what local people wanted.

In February and March 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.

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 and here is an overview of the results:

- Over 6,000 consultation leaflets were delivered to the local area and two public drop-in sessions were held where over 20 people came to view the plans and ask questions
- In total, 132 people responded to the consultation providing 313 individual comments
- Overall, 59 per cent of respondents were supportive of the proposals, 24 per cent were neutral and 17 per cent were negative.

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The following chart shows the reasons behind the respondents' feelings towards the proposals:



The final scheme

Your feedback, along with all of the other ideas and suggestions we collected through the perception survey and from speaking directly to residents and businesses over the past 12 to 18 months, has been valuable in helping us finalise the proposals we consulted on, as well as raising key areas where changes can be made.

Based on this, the following changes have been made to the final scheme.

- **Loading** - concerns were raised by a number of local businesses about the proposal to remove all loading in this section of Forest Road to make space for the new cycle lanes. As a result of this, businesses and residents will be allowed to load in designated areas between 10am and 4pm Monday to Sunday, and existing loading arrangements will still remain as they currently are on side roads.

There will be signs and markings in place to show where businesses can load along Forest Road. In some of the loading areas drivers will need to cross the new cycle lanes when making deliveries, but these have been designed to accommodate this so that they can be driven across safely.

- **Crossing by Pretoria Road** - we have decided not to relocate the crossing by Pretoria Road as originally planned so that we can prioritise funding on other proposals such as the works to make the Palmerston Road junction safer. Instead we will upgrade it with new signals, and raise it to pavement level to encourage drivers to slow down when approaching the crossing.

A plan of the final scheme and the changes being made is attached to this letter.

What happens next?

We'll start to make improvements to the area based on this design from the end of November 2016. 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 works 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 works, please feel free to continue sending us any feedback you have by emailing enjoy@walthamforest.gov.uk.

Palmerston Road junction to Hoe Street junction

The consultation on the proposals for this section of the road was carried out in July 2016. We are currently finalising these designs based on the comments we received from residents and businesses and will feedback on the results as well as the final set of plans in early 2017.

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.

Kind regards



Vala Valavan

Director of Highways and Traffic Management

