

Neighbourhood and Commercial

Strategic Director: Michele Moloney

4 September 2016

Dear Resident/ business owner,

RE: Markhouse Road scheme

Our plans for Markhouse Road aim to make the road safer, easier to navigate and more accessible for all road users. The Markhouse Road scheme will form part of the new Leyton to Blackhorse Road cycling and walking route which aims to better connect areas within the borough, making it easier for people to walk and cycle for local journeys.

In March 2016, we carried out a public consultation with the local community on our plans for Markhouse Road. These plans can be viewed at www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-you-area/markhouse-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/markhouse-road and here is a summary of the results:

- In total 162 people responded to the consultation providing just over 360 individual comments
- 51 per cent of respondents were supportive of the proposed road improvements, 37 per cent were neutral and 12 per cent were negative
- 63 per cent of respondents were supportive of making Theydon Street one way, 26 per cent were neutral and 11 per cent were negative
- 64 per cent of respondents were supportive of the public space improvements between Boundary Road and 247 Markhouse Road, 23 per cent were neutral and 13 per cent negative.

Changes to the final scheme

The feedback and results received have helped shape a final design for Markhouse Road. As a result of this feedback we have made the following changes to the scheme:

- The zebra crossing outside Kelmscott School will be moved slightly to the north, towards the petrol station to help improve visibility for both pedestrians and vehicles, making the crossing safer for everyone
- The pavements on the western side of Markhouse Road will be widened between Theydon Street and Verulam Avenue to provide more space for bus passengers outside St Saviour's Church
- The bus shelter outside 96-100 Markhouse Road will be moved to outside 102-108 Markhouse Road as there is more space there to accommodate bus passengers and pedestrians.

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New trees

We want to make Markhouse Road a safe and enjoyable road to use whether you're visiting the local shops and amenities or travelling through. We're planning to plant 18 new trees, ranging in size and species, along Markhouse Road and the adjoining side streets. These new trees will replace the eight trees that need to be moved either for safety reasons, e.g. the tree opposite Kelmscott School that overhangs the road, or to make space for the pavements and cycle lanes we are putting in. The new trees will be planted during the planting season which falls between November and March.

Public space improvements between Boundary Road and 247 Markhouse Road

The Markhouse Road proposals also included a new public space between Boundary Road and 247 Markhouse Centre which was supported by 64 per cent of respondents during the consultation (as mentioned overleaf). To ensure this new public space meets the views and aspirations of the people using the road we carried out an on-street, face to face survey with people on Markhouse Road about the space in May. These views have been used to further develop our plans and we would now like to carry out further engagement with you in the next couple of months and discuss some of the ideas put forward. If you would like to help us develop the plans further please email enjoy@walthamforest.gov.uk or call 020 8496 3000 by Friday 16 September 2016.

Construction programme

Construction on the Markhouse Road scheme will start in September and will take around six months to complete. Residents and businesses directly affected by the works will receive a letter with more information when work is due to take place, giving more information.

If you have any questions relating to the scheme or if you would like more information on the walking and cycling improvements taking place across the borough visit www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk, email enjoy@walthamforest.gov.uk or call 020 8496 3000.

Best wishes



Vala Valavan
Head of Highways