

Neighbourhood and Commercial

Strategic Director: Michele Moloney

12 July 2018

Dear Resident,

RE: Leyton Town Centre scheme update

Our Leyton Town Centre scheme aims to make roads safer and easier to use for all road users. It includes the area bordered by Grove Green Road, High Road Leyton, Windsor Road, Oliver Road, Church Road, Lea Bridge Road, the A12 and the Gospel Oak to Barking railway line. Leyton is one of four town centre schemes (Leyton, Leytonstone, Chingford and Highams Park) which will better connect areas within the borough, making it easier for people who choose to walk and cycle for local journeys.

In January 2016, we carried out a public consultation with the local community on our plans for the Leyton Town Centre scheme. Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation and provided feedback on the proposals. A full consultation summary can be viewed at www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-your-area/leyton-town-centre and here is a summary of the results:

- In total 334 people responded to the consultation providing 828 individual comments
- Overall 52 per cent of respondents were supportive of the proposals, 34 per cent were neutral and 14 per cent were not supportive of the proposals.

The final scheme

Feedback from the local community has been valuable in helping us finalise some of the proposals we consulted on, as well as raising key areas where changes can be made and more work needs to be done to develop designs. While we continue to refine some of the proposals, we have started constructing others that have been finalised first.

We will continue to develop our plans for the proposals not yet finalised based on the feedback received. Where necessary, we have been carrying out additional engagement activities with residents and businesses in the direct vicinity of the proposals to ensure the final designs meet the needs of the local community. We will write to you again when we have more information on the remaining proposals. Outlined below are the next set of proposals in the Leyton area that we intend to progress:

Grove Green Road – Linear park section

During the consultation 95% of those who responded were either in favour or neutral of proposals to improve facilities for walking and cycling along Grove Green Road through the introduction of new and upgraded segregated cycle tracks, improved footways, removal of the current boundary wall/fence to Linear Park and new planting within the park. We have been finalising our plans for the area over the past few months taking on board feedback and suggestions made during the consultation and now intend to carry out the following works:

- Removal of the boundary fencing and raised brick planters at Linear Park
- Installing a wider footway and new two-way cycle track on the Linear Park side of Grove Green Road.
- New 'floating' bus stops on the Linear Park side of Grove Green Road. Floating bus stops are where the cycle track is diverted around the back of the bus stop area so that bus passengers have space to wait and get on and off the bus.

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- Removing the existing mini-roundabout at the Grove Green Road/Ashville Road junction and replacing it with a conventional give-way junction with wider pavements. The road at the junction will be raised to pavement level (raised table) to help slow traffic and make it easier for pedestrians to cross, particularly those with mobility difficulties. The existing zebra crossing will be moved from its current location north of Ashville Road to a new location between Ashville and Dyers Hall Roads. The crossing will be upgraded to a parallel pedestrian and cycle crossing. 2 existing parking spaces at Dyers Hall Road will be relocated to Grove Green Road. 6 new Grove Green South CPZ bays will be provided outside No. 300 Willowdean Court Grove Green Road E11 and 3 new Grove Green South CPZ bays will be provided outside Nos. 335-331 Grove Green Road E11.
- Constructing a raised table at the junction of Grove Green Road and Central Avenue. A raised table involves raising the road to pavement level to encourage vehicles to slow down and improve pedestrian accessibility. The existing zebra crossing will be upgraded to a parallel pedestrian and cycle crossing.
- Introducing a 20mph speed limit in Grove Green Road and converting the current speed cushions into full width speed humps. These humps will be cycle friendly and would cause minimal discomfort to drivers and passengers alike when vehicles travel over them at the appropriate speed. The 20mph speed limit will be displayed by new road signs and markings on the carriageway.

Planned changes can be viewed here: <https://www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Linear-Park-Masterplan.pdf>

Construction programme

Construction of these proposals will start in early Autumn 2018 and will take around 4-5 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 and our contractors will be working to keep disruption to a minimum.

Making Places

Running alongside this proposed scheme in Linear Park will be the Making Places project for Grove Green ward. The Making Places scheme, which launched in June 2017, will deliver arts and culture projects across the borough. Local residents nominated Linear Park as the site in Grove Green ward that they wanted to see transformed.

'Linear Park: Plot Lines' by artist Lucy Harrison and Matter Architecture was selected as the winning project for this location. The concept is for a new piece of grass and wildflower landscape that traces the history of the site and the people who lived there. The pattern of the houses that previously existed will be recreated in lines of lavender, and the intervening spaces filled with wild flowers or other plants chosen by local residents, who are invited to become part of a friends' group to shape the park's planting and engage with its maintenance in the future.

The history of the site is being researched by Lucy along with the Leyton & Leytonstone Historical Society, local residents and other volunteers, and this will be developed into texts to be interpreted in the landscape on small plaques. The research so far is being collated into a map which is available online.

Further information about the Making Places programme can be found at www.makingplaces.co.uk

Drop-in/information session

We will be holding an information session to display the public realm and highway improvements, discuss the construction phase of works, and address concerns. This will be held in a gazebo in Linear Park on Thursday 19 July, 16:00 to 19:00.

If you have any questions relating to the scheme or if you would like more information on the 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
Director of Highways and Traffic Management