

HOE STREET AND WOOD STREET AREA WIDE IMPROVEMENTS



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Waltham Forest Council was one of three boroughs to be awarded £27million of funding from Transport for London (TfL) for the Mini-Holland Programme to make significant improvements to the borough and encourage more local people to walk and cycle.

The Hoe Street and Wood Street area is one of a series of residential areas in the borough being invested in as part of the programme to create places that are great to live, work and travel around. For the purpose of the programme this scheme has been named the Hoe Street and Wood Street area and forms part of the Mini-Holland Villages scheme.

The Hoe Street and Wood Street area is framed by Hoe Street, Forest Road, Wood Street, Lea Bridge Road and Shernhall Street. A key feature of the scheme involves returning the streets to local people by preventing non-local traffic from cutting through the area whilst making the streets safer, quieter and more enjoyable.

The area consists of over 4,800 households and is popular with people who walk and cycle accessing Wood Street station, Walthamstow Central Station and Bus Station, Walthamstow Market and the shopping centre.

The Hoe Street and Wood Street area scheme aims to:

- Reduce the amount of non-local traffic using the area
- Improve the look, feel and safety of the streets for all road users
- Improve routes to and from local schools and other places of interest in the area
- Encourage people to use healthy modes of transport.

Working with residents and businesses

We understand the importance of early and on-going involvement with the local community to help shape the plans and have already started this engagement process by getting local people's ideas and feedback.

In March this year a perception survey was undertaken with the local residents to understand the concerns and aspirations within the area. Over 400 people took part in the survey and provided over 600 individual comments. The results can be found at www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-you-area/ho-street-wood-street/.

This feedback was used to inform a design that was taken to a series of co-design workshops in June, where local people were given the opportunity to respond and provide us with their initial ideas and comments. Both the survey and co-design workshops have helped us to develop a design for the area that is based on the needs of local residents and businesses.

Working with community services

We have been seeking the views of key services in the area including all the emergency services, schools, religious and community groups. We understand these groups play an important role within your community and are working with them to develop a scheme that improves the areas without impacting on their services. We will continue to engage with these groups throughout the consultation period.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

These engagement activities have allowed us to design a scheme which we believe will enhance and improve the Hoe Street and Wood Street area for all the community.

A proposal has been developed based on the results from the perception survey, co-design workshops, information on traffic movements and traffic survey data, and through the experience of the live trial held in Walthamstow Village last year. The proposal combines a mix of road closures, traffic direction changes, creation of shared public spaces and safety improvements.

The key elements of the proposal are shown on the map and outlined below. To ensure the proposed improvements are effective, they will be introduced in groups, and so the proposed improvements have been divided into two area based groups, Series A and Series B.

Road closures (modal filters)

We are proposing to introduce permanent road closures at the following locations to address the issues surrounding non-local traffic driving through the area. The road closures will also improve safety for local residents in particular children and the elderly, whilst providing a place suitable for playstreets and boosting community interaction. The closures will only affect motorised vehicles, and people who walk and cycle will be able to pass through the closures. Where a closure is installed, space will be provided to allow vehicles to turn around, access for other vehicles such as for deliveries and bin collections will be maintained and residents will still have access to their street. The closures will be designed with the help of local residents to ensure they are in keeping with their surroundings.

- Aubrey Road - at the junction with Church Hill
- Howard Road - at the junction with Church Hill
- Rectory Road - at the junction with Church Hill
- The Drive - at the junction with Church Hill
- Church Hill Road - at the junction with Church Hill
- Barrett Road - south of Greenacre Gardens
- Roland Road - at the junction with Wood Street
- Greville Road - at the junction with Shernhall Street.

Due to ongoing work on Marlowe Estate, we are not proposing major changes to Wyatt's Lane, Havant Road, Turner Road, Marlowe Road and Vallentin Road. However, we hope to secure funding to improve these streets in the future.

Road closure improvement example:

GREVILLE ROAD AND SHERNHALL STREET

- New pedestrian friendly public space with trees and greenery
- Cycle parking to increase access to existing local businesses
- Informal play area to encourage use of space
- Pedestrian and cycle track to Wood Street.



Greville Road and Shernhall Street

Traffic direction and other changes

In order to improve accessibility in the area we are proposing that the following roads undergo traffic direction changes:

- Howard Road - make no entry from Forest Road
- Milton Road - make two-way (eastern link)
- Roland Road - make two-way
- Aubrey Road - make two-way (southern link)
- Yellow box marking on Forest Road at the exit from Falmer Road
- Yellow box marking on Forest Road at the exit from Hurst Road.

Creating a safer environment

Residents have told us that reducing the amount of speeding traffic and creating a safer environment in the scheme area are key priorities. In response, we are proposing to implement a number of road safety and junction improvements into the area to prioritise pedestrians and slow traffic.

Blended 'Copenhagen' crossings at the following junctions:

- Milton Road with Hoe Street
- Richards Place with Hoe Street
- Brown's Road with Hoe Street
- Tower Hamlets Road with Hoe Street
- Aubrey Road with Hoe Street
- Howard Road with Forest Road
- Falmer Road with Forest Road
- Hurst Road with Forest Road.

Road safety and junction improvements at the following locations:

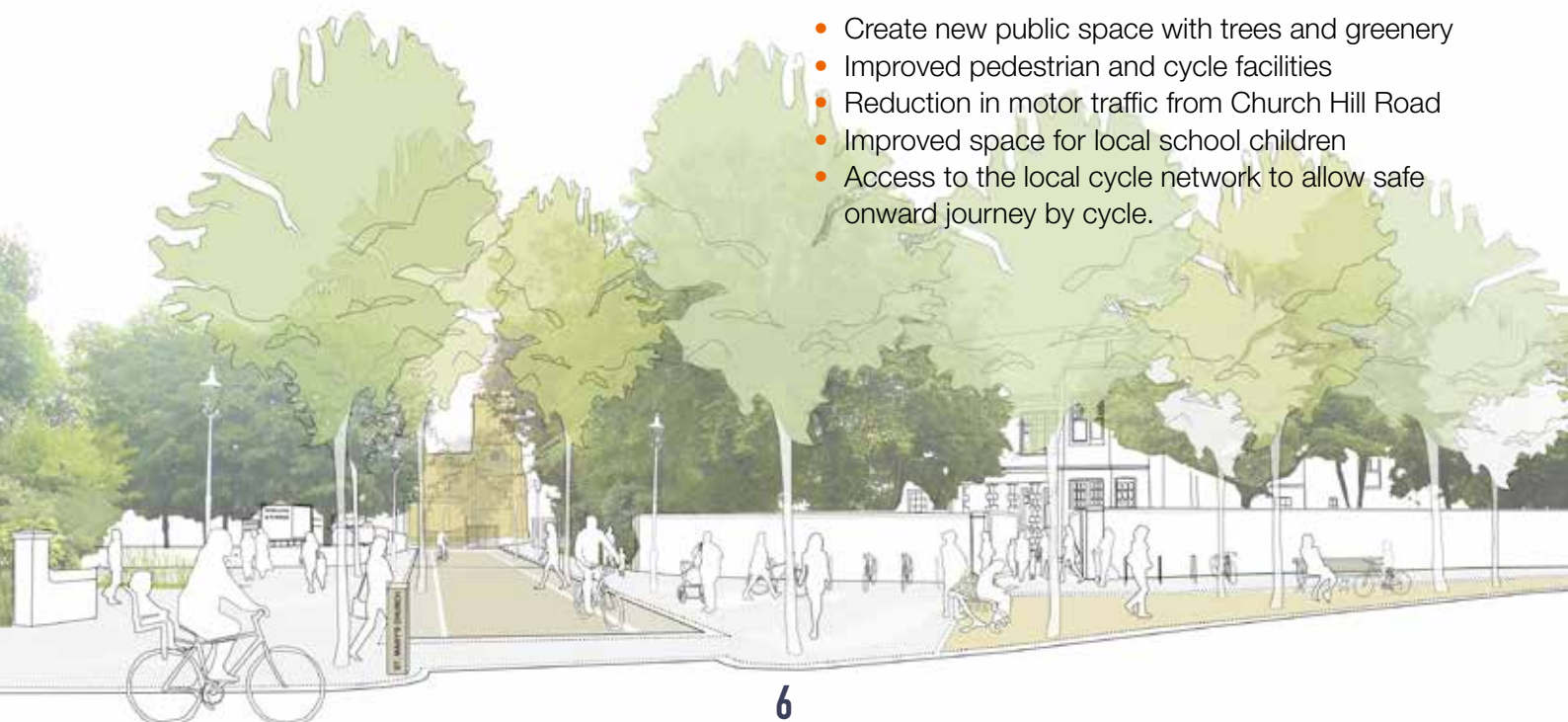
- Raised junction at Church Hill and Rectory Road
- Improvements to the junction at Church Hill Road, Shernhall Street and Turner Road
- Improvements to the junction at Church Lane, Shernhall Street and Vallentin Road
- Improvements to the junction at The Drive and Shernhall Street
- Footway improvements on Church Hill, West Avenue Road and Folkestone Road
- Improvements to the junction of Prospect Hill and Shernhall Street
- Improvements to the junction of Church Hill Road and Church Hill
- Improvements to the junction of Addison Road and Shernhall Street
- Improvements to the junction of Greville Road, Shernhall Street and Oliver Road
- Improvements to the junction of Roland Road and Wood Street including a new pedestrian and cycle crossing.



Example of Blended 'Copenhagen' crossing, which prioritises pedestrians at junctions:

CHURCH HILL ROAD AND CHURCH HILL

- Create new public space with trees and greenery
- Improved pedestrian and cycle facilities
- Reduction in motor traffic from Church Hill Road
- Improved space for local school children
- Access to the local cycle network to allow safe onward journey by cycle.



New and improved public spaces

Based on the feedback and suggestions we received from the perception survey and at the co-design workshops, we have identified public spaces that we would like to develop with your help to enhance the look and feel of the area. The most popular proposals will be taken forward.

The proposals include:

BROWN'S ROAD

- Improve existing green space to create a local “pocket park” with trees and plants
- Act as a meeting place for local people to enjoy
- Potential for a community project to create additional greening such as foraging space.

THE DRIVE

- Create new park with trees and greenery
- Cycle path connecting to the local cycle network
- Improve existing pedestrian facilities
- Road closure to reduce non-local motor traffic
- Potential for a community project to create additional greening such as a meadow or foraging space.

AUBREY ROAD

- New pedestrian and cycle street
- New layout to encourage walking and cycling
- Street art to encourage use and reduce anti-social behaviour
- Road closure to reduce non-local motor traffic
- Link with local cycle network for onward journeys.

CAIRO ROAD

- New tree planting and greenery
- Introduction of cycle parking next to Hoe Street attractions
- Possible introduction of street art.

WEST AVENUE ROAD

- Improve existing green space to create a local “pocket park”
- Act as a meeting place with plants for local people to enjoy
- Potential for a community project to create additional elements
- Signposts with information to local places of interest.

AUBREY ROAD / HOWARD ROAD ALLEYWAY

- Tree planting and greenery
- Improve access for pedestrians and cycles
- Encourage pedestrians and cycles to use the alleyway to reduce anti-social behaviour
- Link with local cycle network for onward journeys
- Create new public artwork.



Brown's Road

Cycle improvements

As part of the area wide improvements proposed, the following improvements will take place to improve the local cycle network.

ROLAND ROAD

Install a new formal shared pedestrian and cycle crossing point to allow safe passage across Wood Street at this location. New public space with plants and trees to be included along with the removal of through traffic by introducing a road closure.

ST MARY'S CHURCH YARD

Create a new pedestrian and cycle track through Church Yard and Vinegar Alley in co-operation with Saint Mary's Church. This will provide an important link to the local cycle network and improve walking and cycling behaviour.

ST MARY ROAD

Create a two-way cycling and one-way motor traffic street between Stainforth Road and West Avenue Road to allow direct access to Hoe Street and to the local cycle network.

BACK ROAD (MARLOW ROAD ESTATE)

Install temporary elements, including greenery and lighting, to improve the area and provide a cycle route through the estate to Wood Street.

HAVANT ROAD

Provide a new safe cycle track along this link, between Turner Road and Wood Street, to allow a safe route and improve connectivity with the local cycle network.

Area upkeep

A number of maintenance issues have been brought to our attention by residents. As part of this scheme we are pleased to be able to address a number of these. Work on the following will start in late 2015 and will continue over the next two years.

- Removal of redundant street signs to de-clutter the area
- Improvements to footways where feasible
- Road resurfacing on Brown's Road.

We will work with the local community to introduce public art in following locations.

- On the southern section of Aubrey Road
- In the alley way between Howard Road and Aubrey Road
- On Cairo Road.

Consultation approach

We want everyone who lives and works in the local area to have their say on the scheme and help shape the proposals. To help manage the consultation and feedback we receive, we are asking people to comment on groups of proposals rather than individual measures. We are asking you to rate what you think of the proposals as well as asking what else you would like to see. This will allow us to shape and develop a scheme that best suits the local community.

We want to hear your views

We hope you like the proposals described and shown on the map. We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed improvements to ensure the changes meet the needs of the local community.

Please provide feedback by 19 October 2015.

Your feedback will help inform the final scheme.

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

- By post - complete the questionnaire and return it using the free post envelope provided
- Come and talk to us and view the plans on:

Thursday 8 October

6pm and 9pm at Vestry House, 11 Vestry Road, Walthamstow, E17.

Saturday 10 October

2pm and 5pm at Shernhall Methodist Church Hall, Walthamstow, E17.

What happens next?

All of the feedback received will be carefully analysed and considered as part of our final design. We will produce a summary of the results and feedback to everyone who took part, setting out the results and how they have been used.

For more information on the Mini-Holland Programme visit www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk.