

MARKHOUSE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS



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MAYOR OF LONDON



Waltham Forest

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.

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 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.

Over the last three years there have been 40 collisions on Markhouse 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 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 Markhouse Road?

The Mini-Holland Programme is made up of a network of walking and cycling routes, one of which is Markhouse 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 local journeys. The routes also help connect Waltham Forest to our neighbouring boroughs, attracting visitors to the borough and boosting business for our local economy.

Markhouse Road forms part of the Leyton to Blackhorse Road walking and cycling route, which connects Forest Road and Leyton High Road. Running from St James Street to Lea Bridge Road, this part of the route is heavily used with over 19,000 vehicles and around 600 cyclists every day. We're now looking to modernise this part of the route to make travelling in the borough by bike and on foot easier and safer.

We know that Markhouse Road is popular for people cycling from Leyton to Walthamstow, so we want to improve it by creating segregated areas where possible, making it safer and easier for everyone to share the road.

We're also planning to put blended 'Copenhagen' crossings in on a number of side streets, which extend the pavement across the road, helping to enforce the Highway Code by encouraging vehicles to give way to pedestrians and people on cycles. We'll also be investing in junctions, pedestrians crossings and bus stops, and will create attractive public spaces with more trees, making the area a more enjoyable place that people will want to use. We recognise that there is a place for cars in our borough, but want to make our roads safer by creating junctions that encourage drivers to slow down and take extra care at key points.

What has happened so far?

In October 2015, we looked at traffic and collision numbers on Markhouse Road to understand what changes need to be made to make the route safer. This information – along with the plans proposed in the Mini-Holland bid document which we submitted to TfL to win the funding for the programme – have been used to develop a set of proposals to improve the area.

We want to involve the local community in shaping the plans and are now seeking feedback on the proposed improvements from residents and businesses, so that we can develop a scheme that meets the needs of the local community as a whole.

As well as seeking your views, we will be in contact with key stakeholders including the emergency services to make sure the design enables them to do their important work day to day, 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 to shape the proposals.

To help manage the consultation and feedback we receive, we're asking you to rate and comment on groups of proposals rather than individual changes, and to tell us what else you would like to see.

Please read each proposal listed in this leaflet, and tell us your thoughts on each one by visiting <http://mrproposals.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 21 March 2016.**

PROPOSALS

The key elements of the proposals are shown on the maps within this leaflet and outlined below.

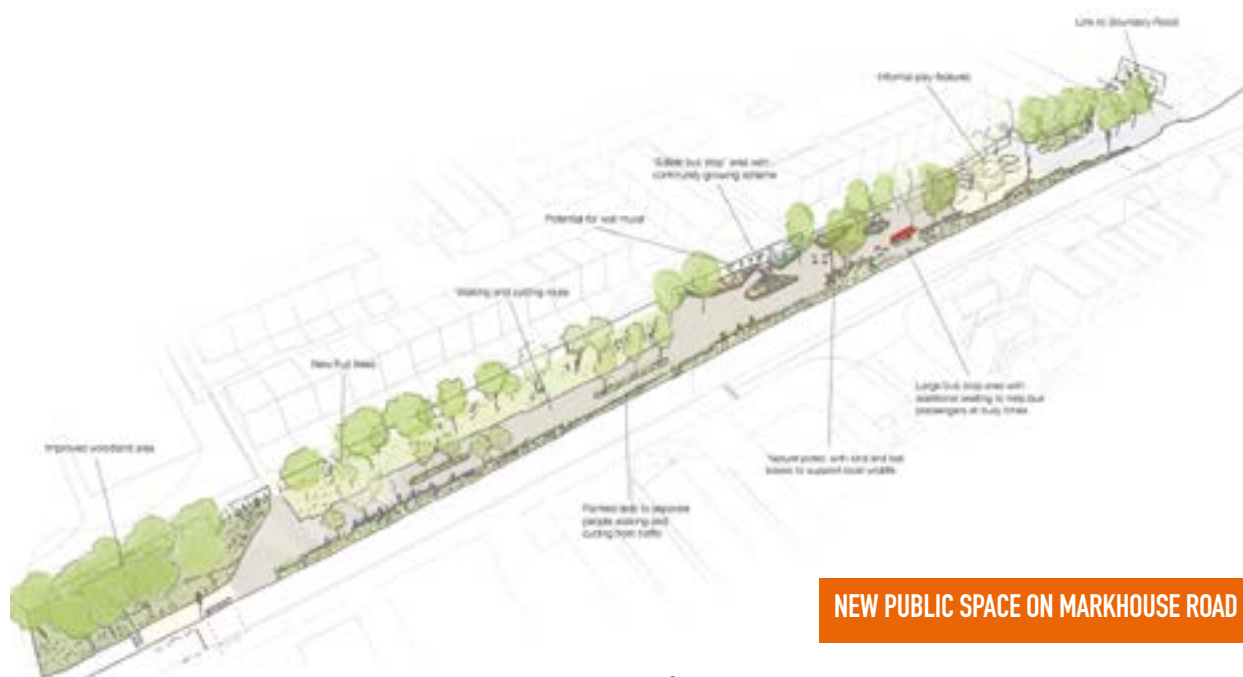
1. New public spaces

We want local people to enjoy spending time visiting the area as well as its shops and leisure facilities.

As part of the Markhouse Road scheme, we want to improve the look and feel of the road between Boundary Road and 247 Markhouse Centre by transforming the long grass area into a new park space that people can walk and cycle through.










To achieve this, we would like to make the following changes:

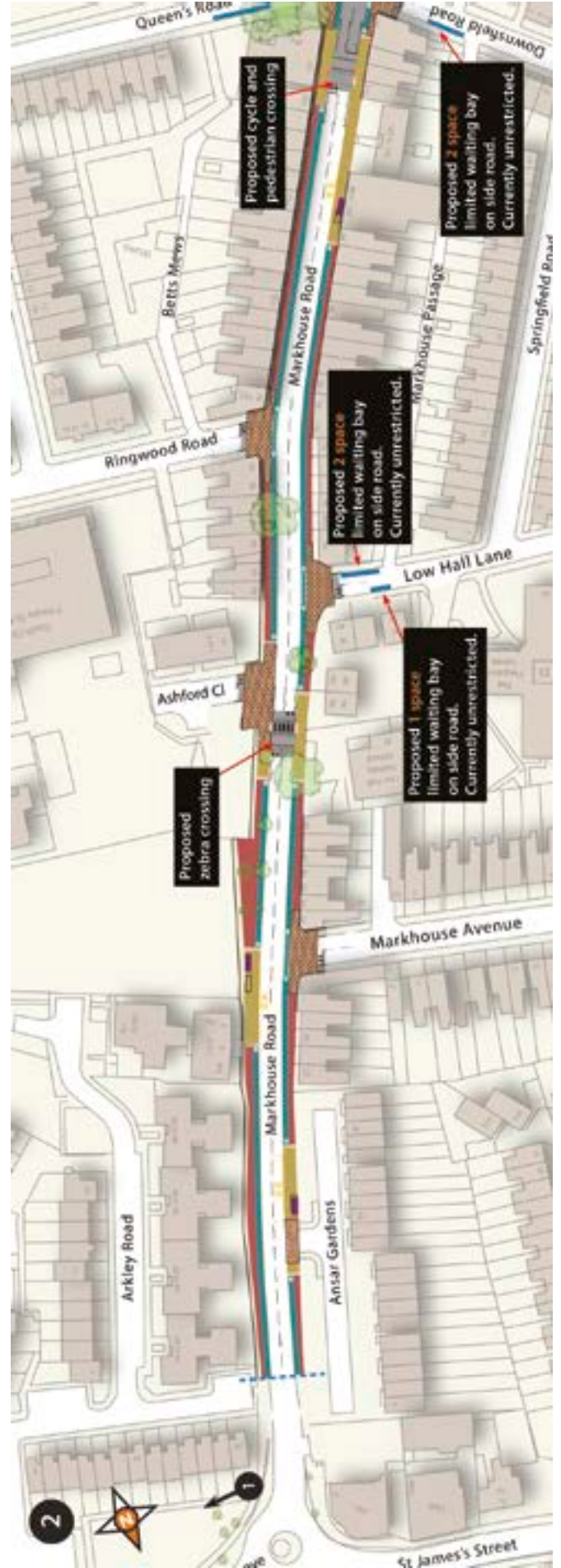
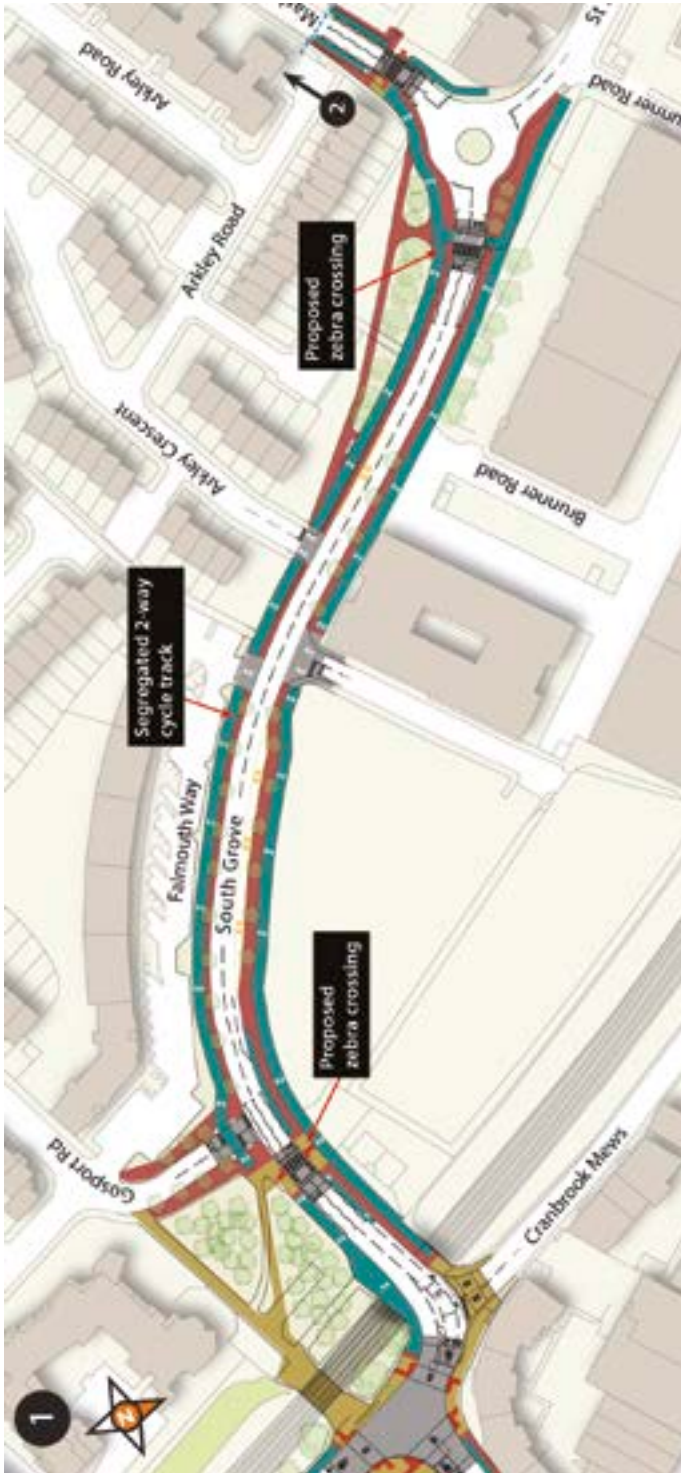
- Create a 'planted area' to separate people walking and cycling from the road
- Introduce trees and a community growing scheme, where residents can plant their own crops and plants
- Improve the bus stop waiting area for bus passengers, by making the area bigger with better seats, an electronic bus timetable, and raising it so that accessing buses is easier for disabled people and people with bus chairs
- Create a wall mural to improve the attractiveness of the space, developed with the help of the community
- Improve the street lighting to help people feel safer
- Help local wildlife to thrive by planting more trees and meadow plants, and introducing bird boxes.



Proposed improvements

Leyton to Blackhorse Road route Markhouse Road section proposals

-  Proposed shared space for pedestrians and cyclists
-  Pedestrian footway
-  Segregated cycle track
-  Proposed blended 'Copenhagen' crossing
-  Bus shelter
-  Proposed public space improvements
-  Raised crossing point
-  Parking bay
-  Trees



2. Creating a safer environment

Over the last three years there have been 40 collisions recorded on Markhouse Road including three classed as serious. To address this, we want to make a number of road safety and junction improvements in the area, which help you get about easily and ensure pedestrians are prioritised at crossings.

BLENDING 'COPENHAGEN' CROSSINGS

We're introducing a new style of crossing called blended 'Copenhagen' crossings, which prioritise pedestrians at junctions. They are popular in Europe and extend the pavement across side streets at junctions, giving pedestrians a continuous pavement rather than a traditional kerb that they need to wait at before crossing the side road. This encourages vehicles to slow down when entering or exiting the side road, ensuring that pedestrians and people cycling have right of way, as per the Highway Code.

We're proposing to install blended 'Copenhagen' crossings at all side road junctions on Markhouse Road between Boundary Road and South Grove Road. Exact locations can be viewed on the map on page 4.

NEW CROSSINGS

To make the area safer for all road users, we also want to improve crossing points at the locations below:

- Create a new zebra crossing on the eastern side of the Markhouse Road/ South Grove roundabout to improve connections to St James Street, Selbourne Road and The Mall
- Raise the existing zebra crossing on the Markhouse Road/ South Grove roundabout to pavement level, to encourage vehicles to slow down when approaching the roundabout
- Create new signalised crossing points on Markhouse Road next to Ashford Close, Queens Road, Verulam Avenue, and on Ashford Close next to Theydon Street. This will improve access in the area for pedestrians and make it easier and safer to cross the road.

3. Cycle improvements

We want to create protected cycle lanes on each side of the road to provide a safe space for people to cycle, separated from motorised traffic. This type of cycle lane makes it clearer and easier for everyone to share the road as the cycle track is higher than the road but lower than the pavement, helping drivers to feel more at ease and people cycling to feel safer. As well as improving cycle lanes, we'll also increase the number of signs to places of interest and cycle stands so people can get to and from this area easily.

SOUTH GROVE

- Introduce segregated cycle lanes between Markhouse Road and Gosport Road to create a separate, designated space for cycling
- Widen the pavement surrounding the roundabout to accommodate the cycle lanes and make the area more appealing to pedestrians.

MARKHOUSE ROAD

- Introduce a segregated cycle lane on both sides of the road between South Grove and Boundary Road to create a separate, designated space for cycling
- Widen the pavements on both sides of Markhouse Road to accommodate the cycle lane and make the area more appealing to pedestrians.

BOUNDARY ROAD CYCLE ROUTE

For people cycling to and from Leyton, we have created a cycle route that will direct people away from the Markhouse Road/ Lea Bridge Road junction and along side streets.

The cycle route will run along Markhouse Road from South Grove roundabout and take people cycling onto Boundary Road, then onto Northumberland Road before connecting to Manor Road on the other side of Lea Bridge Road.

THEYDON STREET CYCLE ROUTE

For those who want to cycle west along Lea Bridge Road and avoid the Markhouse Road/Lea Bridge Road junction, the cycle route will turn right onto Theydon Street then onto Hibbert Road, Bride Road, Hitcham Road and exit onto Lea Bridge Road.

To provide a safe route for cycles we are proposing to make Theydon Street one way entry from Markhouse Road as shown on map four.

4. Bus stop upgrades

We want to help improve the reliability of bus services and meet TfL's accessibility standards to better support elderly or disabled passengers, as well as people with push chairs. To do this, we're planning to improve bus stops, which will be designed together with the new cycle tracks.

We want to improve public transport in the area to help encourage more people to use it, rather than driving as their first option. This will help relieve congestion on the road. We will continue to liaise with TfL who will approve any changes to bus stops.

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

SOUTH GROVE

- To the west of Arkley Crescent (Westbound)
- To the east of the Markhouse Road (Eastbound).

MARKHOUSE ROAD

- To the north of Markhouse Avenue (North/ Southbound)
- To the north of Downsfield Road (Northbound)
- To the south of Queens Road (Southbound)
- To the north and south of Samantha Close (North/ Southbound).

5. Parking and loading improvements

It's important that parking and loading along Markhouse Road meets the needs of local residents, as well as businesses who are vital to the local economy.

To accommodate the improvements to Markhouse Road, we have revised the current parking and loading arrangements and are proposing to remove 10 short term parking bays north of Downsfield Road, and relocate eight parking bays onto the following side streets:

- Three bays in Queens Road
- Two bays in Downsfield Road
- Three bays in Low Hall Lane.

While this means two parking bays would not be relocated, a recent parking survey of the road showed that only 40 per cent of the parking bays are currently used during the day, which is about four vehicles a day. With this in mind, we feel that relocating eight parking spaces is enough to meet the demand in the area.

To accommodate the new segregated cycle lane between Boundary Road and South Grove, the single yellow lines will be removed as the road will become too narrow to allow vehicles to park. For vehicles wishing to park near this section of Markhouse Road parking is allocated on the side streets.

Take part in the consultation

We hope you like the proposals and can see how they will benefit Markhouse Road for everyone. It's important that you help us shape the improvements by telling us your views.

Please provide your feedback by 21 March 2016.

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

- Online – visit <https://mrproposals.commonplace.is> to complete the questionnaire and provide comments online
- Request a hardcopy of the consultation document and questionnaire by emailing miniholland@walthamforest.gov.uk or calling **020 8496 3000**
- Come and talk to us and view the plans on:
Monday 14 March 6pm to 9pm at Kelmescott School, 245 Markhouse Road, E17 8DN.

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.