

7 January 2022

Dear Waltham Forest resident,

RE: Waltham Forest Low Traffic Neighbourhoods update

Waltham Forest is committed to creating people-friendly streets and neighbourhoods that actively encourage walking, cycling and using public transport. Walking and cycling for local trips can achieve significant benefits for the health of individuals and the environment, and are a means to help tackle the public health, air quality and climate crises within the borough.

To help achieve these aims we installed a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) in your area on an experimental basis in October 2020. The scheme removes through traffic in residential areas to create safer, more inviting, and accessible streets for residents to walk and cycle. Low Traffic Neighbourhoods are a means to help address long-term challenges our borough is facing, but in this case implementation was accelerated to increase space on our streets for walking and cycling in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people were displaced from public transport at this time, and with more than half of residents not having access to motorised transport, creating a safe environment for active travel was essential.

The LTN was implemented via Experimental Traffic Management Orders, in line with guidance from central Government. This process included consultation with key stakeholders, such as emergency services, prior to implementation. While some early community engagement took place in 2018 and 2019, as part of several funding bids to Transport for London (TfL) for a major Liveable Neighbourhoods project in your area, we do of course appreciate that under normal circumstances we would have done more community engagement prior to the implementation of a new scheme.

Instead, following the experimental implementation of the LTNs, we have been collecting feedback from residents, schools, businesses and other stakeholders, enabling the community to share their experiences of the live scheme. We want to thank you for providing your thoughts and suggestions by e-mail, post and online. This feedback has helped us to adapt the scheme and consider additional measures which will deliver further improvements to your area.

Scheme analysis and next steps

Following extensive collection and analysis of a range of monitoring data and the feedback provided by members of the public over the past 14 months, we are writing to notify you that ***the Area 3 and 4 scheme in Waltham Forest has been approved and will be made permanent.*** This decision is based on the largely positive outcomes that have been measured during the evaluation period.

The scheme was introduced to help reduce traffic volumes and speeds on roads within the LTN areas, increase levels of walking and cycling, and limit the impact of displaced traffic on public transport networks and roads outside the LTN areas. Our monitoring data shows that the scheme has generally performed well in achieving these objectives and our public engagement has identified a series of further interventions which will address some of the remaining concerns among residents over the operation of the scheme, and further improve the scheme.

The monitoring shows a decrease in traffic volumes and speeds on roads within the LTN area, fewer injuries caused by road traffic accidents, and an overall increase in cycling trips. However, alongside these scheme benefits we recognise that there are still some challenges related to impacts on some of the roads outside of the LTN areas, and we are committed to working with residents, businesses and TfL to identify further solutions to address these.

To view a summary of the traffic data and feedback from residents visit enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-your-area/ltns. If you require this information in hardcopy, please contact using the details below.

In the short term, we have identified a list of potential scheme improvements to be investigated and where possible delivered, which directly respond to feedback from residents and our analysis of traffic and environmental data, these include:

- Replacing the lockable bollard at the Langthorne Road modal filter with a CCTV enforcement camera to improve emergency access
- Developing and consulting on a traffic calming/ accessibility improvement scheme on Harrow Road
- Reviewing and consulting on an option to relocate the modal filter at Ellingham Road (near its junction with Crownfield Road) closer to its junction with Drapers Road, and a potential one-way traffic management system along adjacent roads
- Working with TfL to review traffic signal timings so that these are fully optimised
- Undertaking a feasibility study to investigate further measures to improve conditions for people walking, cycling and using public transport on Crownfield Road
- Further engagement with Downsell and Mayville primary schools to progress prospective School Streets schemes
- Further engagement with the Emergency Services and other stakeholders to review priority locations and consider conversion of modal filters from bollards to CCTV enforcement
- Improving signage at the entry and exit points to the area
- Providing cycle permeability at the existing road closure location on Downsell Road
- Further review of speeding/ aggressive driving concerns on Morris Road.

In the longer term, we are committed to identifying and securing the necessary funding to deliver the broader range of improvements originally identified and set out in the Liveable Neighbourhood funding bids to TfL in 2018 and 2019. Part of this includes developing plans to improve the overall look of the area with public realm schemes, as well as reviewing and upgrading all modal filters.

You can contact us with comments and questions relating to this scheme using the details below.

Contact details:

Email: enjoy@walthamforest.gov.uk

Write to: Enjoy Waltham Forest Team, Low Hall Depot, Argall Avenue, Leyton, London, E10 7AS

Call: 020 8496 3000

Best wishes

Enjoy Waltham Forest Team