

SUTHERLAND ROAD

PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME



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MAYOR OF LONDON


Waltham Forest

BACKGROUND

Waltham Forest Council is working to deliver public realm improvements that will transform Sutherland Road, making it a more enjoyable place for residents, businesses and visitors.

Sutherland Road has an important role in the industrial heritage of the Upper Lea Valley and having undergone a large redevelopment in recent years is now part of a new mixed neighbourhood of residential developments and growing businesses. Sutherland Road is also part of the recently Greater London Authority (GLA) accredited Blackhorse Lane Creative Enterprise Zone called the Blackhorse Collective.

Now that most of the residential development work is complete we've developed proposals, supported by funding from the GLA's Housing Zone programme to improve the overall look and feel of the area, encourage walking and cycling, and improve access for people with mobility aids and pushchairs.

The proposals aim to meet the following objectives:

- Implementing a new and improved public realm
- Increasing the number of trips made by active travel and public transport and improving local connections
- Reducing car dominance and increasing the active use of streets and public spaces
- Creating safer neighbourhood environments, including increasing road safety and improving personal security
- Improving the efficiency and safety of freight movement
- Improving air quality and green infrastructure to create more attractive neighbourhoods for people
- Improving the quality and climate resilience of the public realm
- Ensuring neighbourhoods have good connections to public transport
- Creating vibrant streets that help local businesses to thrive and providing places for the community to come together.

In spring 2023 we held a series of engagement events with residents and key stakeholders to help us understand key concerns and aspirations for the area to help us develop the initial scheme design. The events included:

- Council Ward Forum - 11 March 2023 with local residents and stakeholders
- Community Walkabout - 22 March 2023 with local residents and stakeholders
- Business Forum - 29 March 2023 with local businesses and stakeholders
- Accessibility Forum - 3 April 2023 with local organisations and stakeholders

Overall, feedback on the proposals was positive and the main points raised by the local community included concerns with parking, traffic flow, the condition of the carriageway, difficulties with moving around on foot or by bicycle, the lack of green space and trees, and issues with the interfaces between industrial and residential spaces. The engagement report for the events can be viewed here: enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/sutherland

The feedback from the engagement events has helped us develop a preliminary design for Sutherland Road which is outlined in this document. We would now like the local community to provide further feedback on the proposals to help us develop a final scheme.

Please take a moment to read the proposals and share your feedback by 21 July 2023. Information on how to get involved can be found on the back page.

PROPOSALS

The scheme aims to implement a comprehensive range of improvements throughout Sutherland Road, which are outlined in detail below and shown on the proposals plan on pages six and seven. The proposals include:

- Improving east-west and north-south pedestrian and cycle links
- Addressing the current carriageway alignment and parking layout
- Provision of new green infrastructure and introducing Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- Implementing new wayfinding, public art and placemaking initiatives

Concepts for the new streetscape focus on key opportunity areas, core public realm spaces, and gateway schemes. The following sections and images illustrate the proposals in more detail, and to view larger versions of the maps visit: enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/sutherland

RAIN GARDENS AND PLANTING

At present Sutherland Road has a lack of green space, planting and trees and is dominated by vehicles and parking. The scheme design presents an exciting opportunity to provide a unique new green boulevard on the eastern side of Sutherland Road. We are proposing to install a significant bank of rain gardens that will create new biodiverse, sustainable green spaces that will help tackle climate change by improving air quality, reducing noise pollution, and providing areas with a diverse selection of flowers, plants, shrubs and trees. These will attract pollinators, bees and birds and will also be for the local community to enjoy as communal sociable spaces.



Sutherland Road near Wigmore Place scheme proposals (see links for larger scale images with key)

Rain gardens also include Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) that capture rainfall before it enters the drainage network, and they either release water slowly into the network or allow it to infiltrate into the ground. They can help to improve surface water management while fulfilling a range of other functions such as becoming amenity space, assisting pollution reduction and boosting biodiversity. We would also like the local community to get involved with planting of the rain gardens and future maintenance if possible.

To enable the rain gardens to be installed we will need to make changes to the parking on Sutherland Road. More information about the changes to parking can be found on the following page.



Example of raingardens

PARKING AND EV CHARGING BAYS

Due to concerns raised by the local community regarding parking issues in Sutherland Road and the requirement to reduce parking to make space for the rain gardens and wider scheme improvements, we will also be consulting on the possible implementation of a new Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) for Sutherland Road, that will be delivered alongside this scheme to prioritise parking for the local community. The CPZ will also allow current footway parking bays to be moved into the carriageway, which will create wider and more accessible footways.

If a CPZ was to be introduced in Sutherland Road, it would allow only permit holders, authorised visitors and blue badge holders to park in the CPZ parking bays. The CPZ will also stop commuters, un-taxed vehicles and abandoned vehicles occupying parking space in the street. The scheme also includes proposals for new dedicated blue badge parking bays and new EV charging bays.

There is an additional CPZ information leaflet and questionnaire included in this consultation pack for people who live within the proposed CPZ area.



Example of electric vehicle charging point

PUBLIC REALM AND JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS

There are several key focus areas in Sutherland Road that are being redesigned to upgrade the streetscape and enhance the look and feel of the area. The key locations for these improvements are listed below, shown on the scheme plan in this leaflet; and large scale plans can be accessed via the link below:

enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/sutherland

- Sutherland Road junction with St Andrews Road
- Sutherland Road adjacent to Cambria House
- Sutherland Road junction with Sutherland Path
- Sutherland Road junction with Webbs Industrial Estate
- Sutherland Road junction with Stirling Road
- Sutherland Road junction with Higham Street



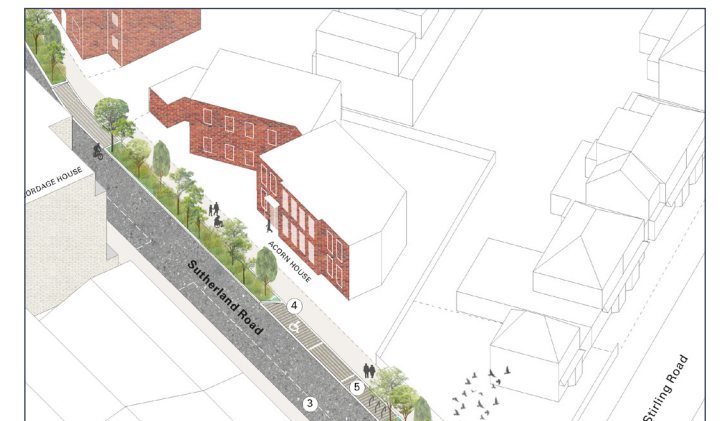
Sutherland Road near Sutherland Path (see links for larger scale images with key)

These areas will include some of the items listed below:

- Improved east-west and north-south connections for walking and cycling along with new wayfinding and signage
- Wider footways, improved crossing points with raised tables or Copenhagen crossings
- Improved surface finishes
- New street furniture and cycle parking
- New green infrastructure and permeable (SuDS) finishes.

The public realm improvements will also include the following changes to St Andrews Road:

- New surfacing in the vicinity of the London Plane trees
- Wider footways and accessibility improvements at various locations.



St Andrews Road and Sutherland Road near Acorn House proposals (see links for larger scale images with key)

HIGHWAY SAFETY AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

St Andrews Road improvements:

In addition to the public realm improvements, we are proposing to widen the footways, declutter the street furniture and install new footway buildouts with raingardens.

Informal crossing points:

Informal crossing points will be introduced at several locations along Sutherland Road where there is pedestrian access to properties.

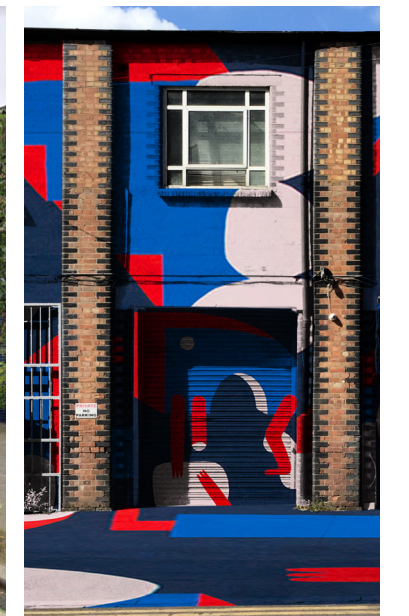
Business units improvements:

The footways in the vicinity of the business units from 59 to 69 Sutherland Road will be improved with the following elements:


- New footway surfaces
- Parking reduction and revised parking restrictions
- New vehicle deflection items (bollards/ street furniture) to improve pedestrian safety
- New trees and planters
- Possible public art (subject to business owner agreements).

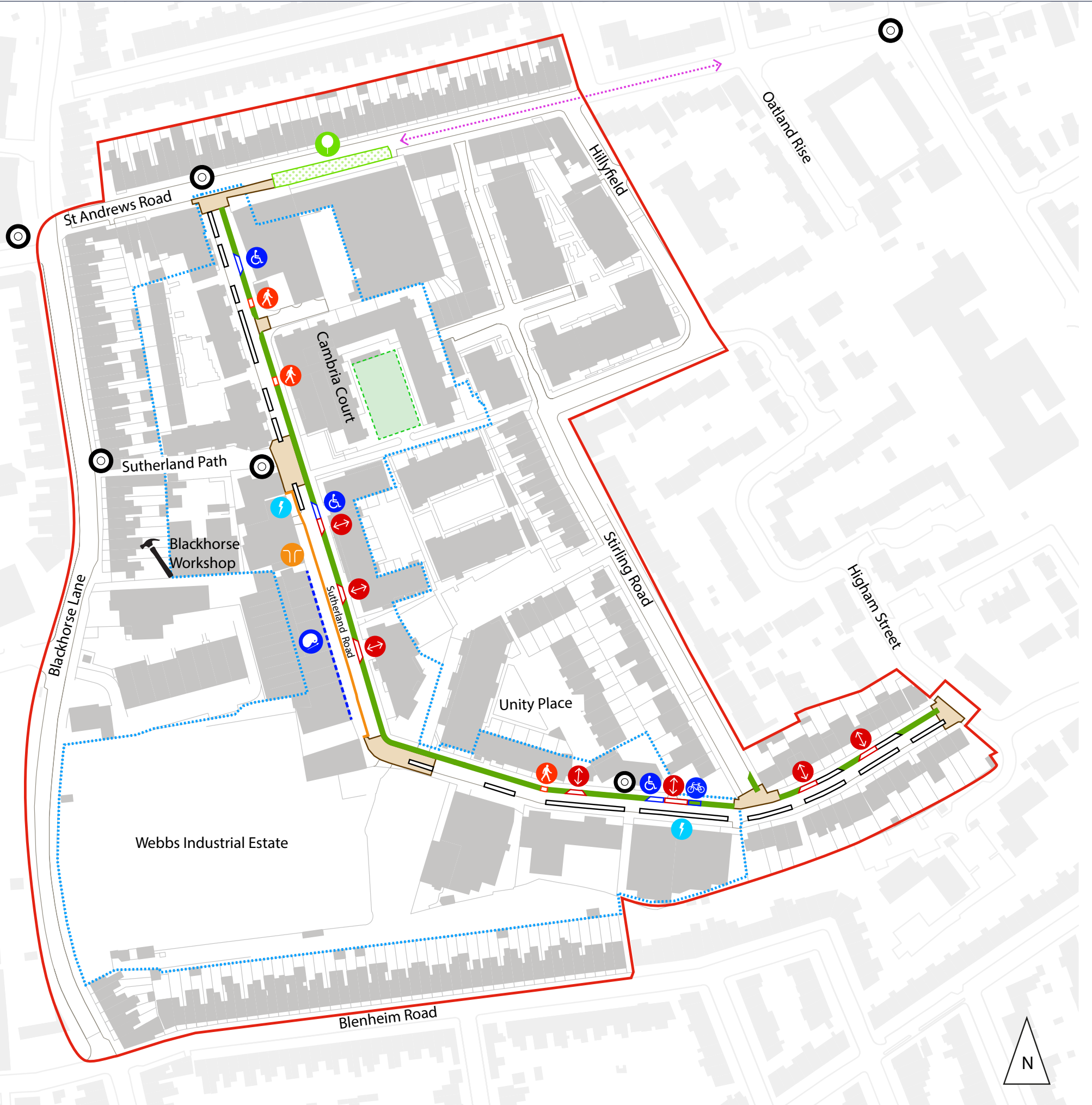
CCTV improvements:

We will also be implementing several new CCTV cameras to monitor and deter anti-social behaviour in St Andrews Road, Sutherland Road and Sutherland Path.



Examples of business areas improvements

-  New SUDS rain gardens with trees
-  On-street parking locations
-  Blue badge parking with permeable surfaces
-  Junction improvements
-  Informal crossing
-  Improvements to Mill Gardens green space
-  Access improvements to business units
-  Public art project (subject to business agreement)
-  New / upgraded CCTV cameras
-  Possible EV charging point with permeable surfaces
-  Wider footway near London Plane trees
-  St Andrews Road - Footway and access improvements
-  Existing access to private parking with permeable surfaces
-  Proposed CPZ boundary
-  Proposed cycle hangar



GET INVOLVED

Sutherland Road Public Realm Improvement Scheme questionnaire:

We want everyone who lives or works on Sutherland Road to get involved in the public consultation to help us shape the final design for the area. We kindly ask that you read and comment on each of the proposed improvements to help us develop a scheme that works for everyone in the local community.

There are a number of ways you can participate in the consultation.

- You can submit your views online by visiting:
www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SutherlandRoad
- Or you can request a hard copy of the consultation questionnaire by emailing:
enjoy@walthamforest.gov.uk

Please submit your views by the closing date of **21 July 2023**.

We want to get the views of local residents who are registered as having a Blue Badge, people who are less mobile, and people who have a disability or look after someone with a disability, to help us develop the scheme. If you would like this leaflet and the maps in larger print or have any other requests to enable you to respond to the consultation, please contact us using the above email address.

Sutherland Road CPZ questionnaire

If you live within the proposed CPZ area there is an additional CPZ information leaflet and questionnaire included in this consultation pack.

Drop-in sessions

Join us at one of our drop-in sessions below to discuss the plans in more detail.

Saturday 8 July 2023 (12pm-2pm)

Higham Hill Hub CIO, Higham Hill Park, Hecham Close, Walthamstow, E17 5QT

Tuesday 11 July 2023 (5pm-7pm)

Higham Hill Hub CIO, Higham Hill Park, Hecham Close, Walthamstow, E17 5QT

Next steps

All the responses received will be carefully analysed and will influence the final scheme design. Where possible, we will make changes based upon suggestions and comments; and if changes are not possible, we will explain why.

Once the consultation process has been completed, we will publish a summary of the consultation feedback and provide further details about what will be delivered as part of the Sutherland Road Public Realm Improvement Scheme in the link below:

enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/sutherland

