



Wood Vale Summary Report

Wood Vale Highway Improvements

January 2020

Introduction

This report has been produced by the London Borough of Southwark Highways team to provide a summary of the consultation exercise recently carried out for proposed highway improvements in a section of Wood Vale (between its junctions with Lordship Lane and Langton Rise).

Wood Vale is located in the wards of Dulwich Hill and Dulwich Wood.

Southwark Highways have identified several interventions that could reduce traffic speeds and discourage through traffic in this section of Wood Vale.

The proposals include:

- New raised tables at 4 locations which will help to slow traffic and aid pedestrian movement.
- The replacement of existing speed cushions with speed humps in order to slow traffic more effectively.
- The removal of existing traffic islands – to be replaced with raised tables.
- The introduction of priority working at 2 locations to discourage through traffic from using this section of Wood Vale in order to access the South Circular/Lordship Lane.
- Footway refurbishment on both sides of the road in order to facilitate pedestrian movement.

Public consultation on these proposals took place from 5 November 2019 to 3 December 2019. All residents living with the effected area were sent consultation letters (212 addresses) and any other interested parties also were invited to comment on the proposals via the Council website.

Consultation Process

The views of the local community were sought as part of this consultation exercise. A letter was sent to all addresses on Wood Vale between Lordship Lane and Langton Rise.

The distribution area was large enough to gain views from the wider community that may be considered to be affected by the proposed measures. A mailing list was drawn using the Council's Smart2 mapping system and database.

A copy of the letter is appended.

Consultees were advised to respond to the consultation via the online consultation portal. They were also given an email address and telephone number by which to respond.

The letters were delivered by Royal Mail.

The consultation was also available online via the consultation portal. The portal included the following downloads/links:

<https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/environment-leisure/wood-vale/>

Public access to the online form was removed at the end of the consultation period.

Summary of Consultation Results

Consultation Returns and Response Rate

The consultation closed on 3 December 2019. Public access to the online portal was removed at midnight on this date.

A total of 70 online responses were received during the consultation period. This represents a 33% response rate.

Question 1: Are you

Are you mainly	Number	Percentage
A pedestrian	34	49%
A cyclist	6	9%
A motorist	18	26%
Other	9	13%
Not answered	3	4%
Grand Total	70	100%

Question 2: Do you support these proposals to reduce traffic speeds and reduce through traffic on Wood Vale? (the introduction of raised tables & new pedestrian crossing opportunities)

Response	Number	Percentage
Support	48	69%
Support with changes	15	21%
Do not support	6	9%
Not answered	1	1%
Grand Total	70	100%

Question 3: Do you support these proposals to reduce traffic speeds and reduce through traffic on Wood Vale? (the replacement of cushions with humps & removal of existing islands)

Response	Number	Percentage
Support	47	67%
Support with changes	13	19%
Do not support	7	10%
Not answered	3	4%
Grand Total	70	100%

Question 4: Do you support these proposals to reduce traffic speeds and reduce through traffic on Wood Vale? (the introduction of priority working in 2 locations)

Response	Number	Percentage
Support	40	57%
Support with changes	19	27%
Do not support	10	14%
Not answered	1	1%
Grand Total	70	100%

Question 5: Do you support these proposals to reduce traffic speeds and through traffic on Wood Vale? (the refurbishment of existing footways)

Response	Number	Percentage
Support	58	83%
Support with changes	9	13%
Do not support	1	1%
Not answered	2	3%
Grand Total	70	100%

Question 6. Do you have any suggested changes to these proposals?

Response	Number
Remove/relocate proposed priority working and/or tables due to queues, pollution and/or lack of effectiveness	9
No vertical deflections due to noise and vibrations	5
Unclear about new pedestrian crossing opportunities	9
Speed cameras would work better	5
Concern about bus operations	6
Measures are not strict enough	8
Large vehicles should be banned	4
The mini-roundabout at Melford Rd is dangerous	3

Additional comments received from key stakeholders

Southwark Cyclists

We are concerned that the priority working will create a hostile environment for those on bicycles for who most motorists will ignore the priority and fall back on the might is right. We are also not convinced this scheme addresses the desire of reducing motor traffic on the length of this road as the priority system will only be effective at increasing journey times if the street is very busy and setups like this can still carry a large amount of traffic without impact to journey times and thus apps like google maps waze and other route finding applications will divert a significant proportion of traffic along this route. It would be far better were this area filtered of motor traffic.

If this approach is not taken then the one way section should provide a cycle bypass.

Focused questions

- The vast majority of those who responded were in support of the introduction of raised tables and new pedestrian crossing opportunities.
- The vast majority of those who responded were in support of the replacement of cushions with humps and the removal of existing traffic islands.
- The majority of those who responded were in favour of the introduction of priority working in 2 locations
- The vast majority of those who responded were in favour of refurbishing the footways.
- Concerns were raised by some that proposed measures would:
 - i) Increase traffic queues and pollution;
 - ii) Not improve crossing conditions for pedestrians; and
 - iii) Not be strict enough to be successful

Recommendations

There are clearly numerous issues that require addressing in Wood Vale and this is demonstrated by the high response rate.

The majority of those respondents are in favour of the proposed improvements and support attempts to reduce traffic speeds and through traffic in this area.

Some people commented that the measures do not go far enough whilst some others fear that the proposals will not prove to be successful in achieving their aim.

Based on the high number of positive responses received we do not recommend making any changes to the outline design. Small changes may need to be made following the road safety audit however this will not require any further decision making.

Appendix 1 – Consultation letter

Ryan Britton
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Transport Projects
Highways

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Date: 28 October 2019

Ref: Wood Vale Traffic Calming

Dear Resident

Wood Vale Highway Improvements

The council are proposing to make improvements to Wood Vale.

Following a number of requests from residents, to reduce speeds and discourage through traffic, we have put together a proposal to tackle these issues that we would now like your feedback on. We would especially like to know if you think the designs could be improved or if we have missed any opportunities.

The measures will include new raised tables, new pedestrian crossing opportunities, the replacement of existing speed cushions with humps, the removal of the existing islands, and introducing priority working in two locations to discourage through traffic using Wood Vale to access South Circular Road / Lordship Lane.

As part of these works we will also be taking the opportunity to refurbish the footway and resurface the carriageway from Langton Rise to Lordship Lane.

Please let us know what you think by visiting our consultation hub <https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/environment-leisure/wood-vale/>

Best wishes

Ryan Britton
Principal Engineer