

Dulwich Streetspace Newsletter

May 2021

Streets for people

Over the years Southwark residents have told us of their concerns about high traffic levels and road safety. You have told us that you want healthier, safer and greener streets.

This newsletter further explains the changes we have made so far, the reasons for the changes, how we are taking this work forward and how you can continue to have your say.

Across all parts of Dulwich, residents and local groups have worked with the council using the Cleaner, Greener Safer Fund and other innovative measures to develop local schemes to support those objectives.

This work is in line with our priorities to improve air quality and tackle Climate Change, reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2030.

These challenges are urgent and the solutions are complex. Changes on our streets and public spaces sit within a much wider vision and strategy for a green, low carbon Southwark involving all areas of the Council's responsibilities.

In 2019 and early 2020, we sought the views of local residents under the banner 'Our Healthy Streets Dulwich', which showed support for measures to improve safety for cycling and walking. We received feedback from more than 2,000 residents.

The findings are set out in the 'Our Healthy Streets Dulwich Phase 3' report and can be found on our website:

www.southwark.gov.uk/ohs-dulwich

In spring 2020, we implemented changes very quickly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes aimed to make space for social distancing and help people to walk and cycle more to avoid public transport.

Streetspace Schemes in Southwark

These measures are part of a borough-wide programme of 11 Streetspace trial areas in Southwark, sometimes referred to as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs). The Dulwich area is one of the largest schemes in Southwark. There are similar schemes all over London, supported by funding from Transport for London (TfL).

The majority of residents in Southwark do not have access to a car. However, we recognise that for many local people use of a car is vital for mobility, independence and work. We also know that public transport availability varies significantly throughout the borough.

- We must therefore enable accessible and reliable active travel whenever we can.
- We need to make our roads safer for people and improve air quality even further, especially around schools.
- We need to reduce the number of cars on our roads and the number of journeys made.
- Dulwich is an area that many vehicles travel through, on a daily basis. This creates real challenges that we need to tackle effectively.

We are now evaluating the Dulwich Streetspace schemes, looking closely at data and at the views of local residents and businesses to help us make good long-term decisions about local roads and streets. Your feedback is really important.

It will also help us work with TfL on the roads they are responsible for around the Dulwich area.

We want better public transport; more trains, buses and electric vehicle charging points to help us create a local infrastructure that supports people to make clean, green travel choices.

We know that the last year has been exceptionally hard for our local businesses, who are at the hearts of our communities. We are working hard to provide practical support to businesses and to create thriving, accessible high streets and town centres across the borough.

School Streets

School streets are timed road closures to reduce traffic close to schools at the beginning and end of the school day. Southwark has more than 30 school streets and many more in progress. School streets improve air quality and help keep pupils safe.

Trial and permanent school streets have been in place for Heber Primary, Goose Green Primary schools, Harris Primary East Dulwich, Bessemer Grange Primary and Alleyn's Junior School, which have been well received by the school and local residents.

Emergency Services

Across London, there has been some concern about the impact of Streetspace measures on the work of the emergency services. The work of our emergency services is of vital importance and we have therefore been monitoring this very closely. We have implemented a fortnightly reporting system with the London Ambulance Service. Last year we worked with them and the Fire Brigade on all our 11 LTN schemes making

changes to improve access even further. This work continues and will inform the review.

What are we trying to achieve?

Overall, we want to:

- Improve road safety.
- Reduce carbon emissions to help tackle the climate emergency.
- Make walking and cycling an enjoyable, safe and easy way to get around.
- Reduce inequalities in health and wellbeing.
- Reduce the amount of cut-through traffic.
- Reduce parking pressure for local residents.
- Encourage people to shop locally to support businesses and reduce car use.
- Improve air quality and reduce pollution and noise levels.
- Make more space on our pavements for social distancing to help keep everyone safe from COVID-19.

The Dulwich schemes

These cover Dulwich Village, East Dulwich and a small section of Champion Hill.

We introduced changes in 2020 using Experimental Traffic Management Orders (ETMOs). As the name suggests, these are temporary changes and their impact is being monitored so that we can consider what permanent changes would be most beneficial.

Measures and improvements made so far?

A full list of measures implemented to date and **a map of the Dulwich area** is available at

www.southwark.gov.uk/dulwichstreetspacereview

The COVID-19 pandemic meant that we had to act quickly and regrettably we were not able to undertake a full consultation process before the changes were introduced, though many measures are built on the work done through Our Healthy Streets. We have been listening to local residents and businesses and we have already made some changes in response to feedback.

You told us what needed to change

The following changes have been made since the schemes were first introduced:

- Additional advance road signage.
- Exemptions for Blue Badge holders who live in the area.
- Extended enforcement of loading bays.
- Temporary signage to encourage people to support local businesses.
- Engagement with Dulwich Village and East Dulwich traders on parking measures to support them.
- Benches and seating to provide green space and resting places.

Later in 2021 and in early 2022 we will also review Controlled Parking Zones implemented last year in the East Dulwich Grove and Peckham West areas.

Making Cycling easier

In May, we will also be installing a further 11 cycle hangars in the Dulwich area. This is part of a council commitment to double the number of cycle hangars to 500 by 2022. More information is available at:

www.southwark.gov.uk/cycleparking

How will we know if things are improving?

In addition to seeking the views of local residents and businesses on the experimental measures we are gathering data to monitor the impacts. These include:

- Pedestrian and cycle counts
- Traffic counts
- Bus performance data

- Traffic light data at junctions
- Air quality data
- Accident data
- Penalty Charge Notice data
- School travel survey data

We are also working with Lambeth Council and TfL to monitor our boundary roads.

More details of our monitoring and evaluation strategy can be found on our website at

www.southwark.gov.uk/dulwichstreetspacereview



What timescales are we working to?

We will:

- Undertake public consultation between mid-May and early July.
- Review consultation responses and data gathered between mid-July and mid-August.2021
- Make recommendations for consideration by the Council in the autumn.
- If changes are approved and measures are to be retained in some form, statutory consultation will take place on a Traffic Management Order prior to a final decision to implement any permanent changes being taken.

**Highways – Dulwich Review, 3rd Floor,
Hub 2, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1
2QH**

If you are a business owner and you would like to receive business-specific information, please send your business name and business address or email address to:

streetspace@southwark.gov.uk

We are also contacting local schools to understand the views of children and young people on how the changes have affected them.

We are holding events for local residents and businesses:

An online meeting on **Sunday 23 May 2021 at 2pm** where the council will explain what we have been doing and why.

An online meeting on **Wednesday 26 May at 7pm** where we want to hear the views of local residents and different stakeholder groups.

An online meeting on **Saturday 19 June 2021 at 2pm** when we want to look at the specific plans, challenges and improvements with you in groups.

To book into any or all of these meetings please visit:

<https://dulwichreview.eventbrite.co.uk>

More information about how we plan to engage with you throughout this consultation can be found in our Engagement Plan on our website at:

www.southwark.gov.uk/dulwichstreetspacereview

We know that the changes have different effects depending on where you live and how you get around.

We will be asking what street you live on, your postcode and your unique reference number which you can find on the bottom of the envelope this newsletter came in.



Have your say!

Throughout the process to date, we have been asking local people to share their views, experiences and ideas for improvements with us. This has included our interactive online ‘Commonplace’ maps for Dulwich Village and East Dulwich.

We now want to find out more from local people about how the changes have affected you, which elements are working well and where challenges remain.

We are particularly keen to hear from people in all social and economic communities as well as those who run a business or have a disability.

The consultation exercise includes a survey which is available to everyone who is interested in these schemes, whether or not you live in the local area. This will be available from mid May 2021 until mid-July 2021. The link to the consultation document can be found here:

www.southwark.gov.uk/dulwichstreetspacereview

If you have registered to receive a paper copy, this will be sent to you. If you do not have access to the internet and have not registered, please request a paper questionnaire by writing to:

Your individual responses and personal details will not be published. It will be used to help understand how residents' views differ across the Dulwich area.



What are the possible outcomes of this review?

Following the consultation, engagement and monitoring activities, we will produce a report analysing the results and recommending one of the following options:

One: Make the scheme permanent

If the data and consultation feedback indicates that the trials are meeting our objectives, we will recommend making the current experimental traffic management orders permanent.

Two: Make amendments to the existing scheme

If the data, consultation feedback and safety considerations indicate that changes can be made to improve a scheme then we will recommend making amendments.

Three: Remove all or part of the scheme

If the scheme is not achieving the benefits expected, we can remove all or part of the scheme (subject to safety considerations).

And finally...

It is really important that we listen to all of our community and work together to deliver a

healthier, safer and greener area for all of our residents, businesses and visitors.

We will keep listening and making changes where needed.

Completing this consultation and encouraging your friends and neighbours to do so as well, gives us the best chance of delivering safer, greener streets which work for everyone.

Thank you!