

HGVs and width restriction in Harper Road and Bath Terrace - background

Since 2016 Harper Road has tended to experience a relatively high proportion of large vehicles, up to 18% of all traffic on some sections, compared to similar streets in the borough. The high proportion of HGVs and other large vehicles has been central to community concerns and is a particular safety issue. Harper Road is part of an upcoming cycle route and the high proportion of large vehicles together with the lack of space to accommodate a continuous cycle lane means the street fails one of the criteria of the [Healthy Streets](#) check. The Dickens Square Park refurbishment and residential developments will also bring more people into the area and there are many vulnerable pedestrians accessing schools and the mosque.

After careful analysis of a number of possible interventions, the council considered that, on balance, implementing A width restriction on a trial basis was the most appropriate and practical measure. Width restrictions of 6'6" (2.0m) were therefore proposed at Harper Road between Bath Terrace and Rockingham Street and at Bath Terrace. A period of informal consultation with the local community and key stakeholders was carried out in November and December 2017 and showed overall support (refer to the [Harper Road consultation summary document](#) (pdf, 1023kb)). The width restriction was implemented under an experimental traffic order [The London Borough of Southwark \(Width restriction\) \(Harper Road and Bath Terrace\) \(No. 1\) Experimental Traffic Order 2018](#) (pdf, 914kb). The trial has been in place since 29 March 2018, with reinforcement in June following vandalism - this length has allowed traffic to adjust to the changes so that we can assess how successful the width restrictions are and whether we need to take any further mitigation measures. Results will be made available towards the end of October 2018.

Objections were able to be submitted via a formal process within six months of implementation. If further measures are subsequently implemented under the order, this would re-start the six month objection period (see [more information on objections](#) (pdf, 186kb)). [We designed a draft monitoring plan \(version 3\)](#) (pdf, 431kb) so that we can assess the impacts of the width restrictions using traffic and video surveys and air pollution monitoring. Residents and stakeholders were able to submit their feedback using the [online feedback questionnaire](#)..

The monitoring of the trial width restriction, and any objections received during the monitoring period, will help us to identify if the width restrictions are working and help us assess whether any further measures may be required. We were aware of the concerns raised by some residents and the emergency services regarding access. We worked with stakeholders to address any such concerns and minimise any adverse effects of the trial.

Teething problems with trial width restrictions

Due to tampering with blocks at the trial width restriction at Harper Road we installed an improved self-enforcing trial width restriction in week of 11 June 2018 which consisted of extending the existing traffic islands between Bath Terrace and Rockingham Street and adding bollards. An island with bollards was also added at Bath Terrace. The distance from kerb to kerb is 2.15m following the [TSRGD manual best-practice guidelines](#). The width restrictions are still a trial measure and are subject to redesign at the end of the trial period, should the trial be successful, to fit in with street improvements in the area.

The target timeframes of the width restriction trial were not been affected: monitoring took place, as initially planned, in autumn taking into account a three-month bedding-in

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period and school holidays; formal consultation of a final traffic order is still planned for Winter 2018/19 and decision making for spring 2019.

(The information in this document was available on the Harper Road website <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/regeneration/elephant-and-castle?chapter=19> until 17/10/2018, slightly edited here for past tense)