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**Streateries consultation – Bloomsbury Square**

**What’s the challenge on Bloomsbury Square?**

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how people in Camden live, travel and work. Since the start of the pandemic many of us have been spending more time closer to home, making our neighbourhoods more important than ever. We want our streets to be safe spaces for you to walk and cycle, for children to get to and from school safely and healthily, for businesses to be able to flourish and for you to be breathing cleaner air. COVID-19 has created new challenges for our local economy and the Council is committed to supporting our local businesses to reopen safely as lock down measures ease. We are working to provide new ways to support and boost our local high streets and town centres whilst keeping them safe and secure for our communities.

In 2020 the UK Government introduced new legislation to make it easier for businesses to apply for licences to place tables and chairs on the pavement, but many pavements in the borough are too narrow to allow them. During 2020 we set up a Streateries programme to support the hospitality sector, enabling them to re-open and trade during the summer months with more outdoor space. **A Streatery is a car free outdoor dining space in the road protected by barriers around the space, where businesses can place tables and chairs for outdoor dining and so that pedestrians can pass safely on the pavement.**

Camden’s local Town Centres and High Streets are at the heart of local communities and Streateries have a key role to play in their successful re-opening and recovery. They help to create destinations for residents and visitors to meet and socialise, adding to street life and vibrancy, increasing footfall and regenerating the wider local economy.

To help the hospitality sector's recovery, we are now proposing new temporary Streatery locations, based on received applications for pavement licenses. We are consulting now to help those businesses across the Borough who wish to have additional space for outdoor dining, to trade safely.

# **What is being proposed?**

Bloomsbury Square is just off Vernon Place – a key east-west route in Holborn. The eastern arm of the square is closed to through motor traffic so vehicles only enter to park. A Streatery is proposed outside Victoria House (the London Cabaret Club), adjacent to the closure, as a trial. We are now carrying out a consultation and we want you to have a say to help shape the new designs.

We propose to:

* remove 14 metres of double yellow lines (no parking at any time) outside Victoria House to provide a temporary space for outdoor dining, with barriers around the new space.

Access for cyclists will be retained but moved slightly.

After the consultation, we will carefully consider the responses, alongside other information, to help us decide whether or not to progress the scheme. Should a decision be made to proceed, we would implement the changes on a trial basis, under an Experimental Traffic Order (ETO) during which time people will be able to provide feedback. After a period of 12 months of the trial we will undertake a public consultation. The results of that consultation together with feedback received during the trial and monitoring data will inform a decision as to whether or not to make the Streatery permanent.