

Gospel Oak Healthy School Street

Appendix 3 – Detailed consultation comments

A summary of the consultation responses is provided in the main report. This appendix provides more detailed comments from respondents to the recent consultation as to whether to make the Gospel Oak Healthy School Street scheme permanent or not. A total of 104 comments were received. These are grouped by theme and summarised along with Officer responses below:

Signage – 25 respondents were concerned about the signage being inadequate. Some stated that this posed a road safety risk to the children, because drivers were not noticing the signs and driving through the restricted zone.

Officer comment - If the decision is made to make the scheme permanent, officers will keep the signage under review. When the scheme was implemented in early 2019, the options for signage for Healthy School Streets Schemes were limited. The signs used for the scheme are deemed suitable by officers, and they are compliant with Department for Transport regulations. As these schemes become more popular throughout London, and nationally, more signage options have become available. These will be explored if the scheme is made permanent.

Extend the hours/area of the scheme – 21 respondents stated that the hours and/or area of the scheme could be extended.

Officer comment – This may be looked into in the future, however there are no immediate plans to extend the restricted zone, or change the hours of operation.

Mansfield Road – 15 respondents were concerned about traffic and air quality on Mansfield Road. They also noted that some parents were parking there during drop off and pick up times.

Officer comment – The data in table 3 of the main report shows that there has been a slight reduction in traffic on Mansfield Road post scheme implementation. There are no planned improvement schemes for Mansfield Road currently. However, in October 2020 the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in London is due to be extended to create a larger ULEZ area, bounded by the North and South Circular Roads. Therefore Mansfield Road (and the whole of Camden) will be part of that area. This could help to reduce traffic levels and improve air quality. Officers have observed a small number of parents parking illegally on Mansfield Road at the junction with Savernake Road, (where new ‘no waiting or loading at any time’ restrictions have been put in place), whilst they drop off/pick up children from Gospel Oak School or Nursery. Officers have asked the school to remind parents that this is unacceptable and illegal. Enforcement officers have patrolled the area and will continue to do so if the scheme is made permanent, issuing Penalty Charge Notices where illegal/dangerous parking is observed.

Making Savernake Road One Way – 9 respondents commented on this. It was not part of the proposals in this consultation. It was mentioned in the leaflet as a potential idea for a future scheme, based on comments from the original consultation, and feedback received during the trial period. Of the 9 that commented,

5 stated that they would like the idea to be further explored, and 3 stated that they would not support the idea.

Officer comment - A one-way option for Savernake Road is being considered, which will be consulted on separately to this scheme. The design and detail of this potential scheme is currently being explored.

Access

9 respondents commented on access to Savernake Road. One commented that delivery drivers block the road and have damaged parked cars. Another also commented on parked cars being damaged by speeding or 'rat-running' vehicles. They suggested further restrictions, or traffic calming measures on Savernake Road. Three respondents commented that it was difficult to schedule online deliveries outside of the restricted hours. Another stated that their elderly relative sometimes needed a taxi during the restricted times, and were concerned about the taxi drivers being fined.

Officer comment – Further engineering measures to discourage 'rat-running' on Savernake Road may be researched and consulted on as part of the potential one way scheme which is currently being considered. There were very few issues reported during the ETO regarding access to properties within the restricted zone. Issues were dealt with on a case by case basis, and this approach would continue if the scheme is made permanent.

Air Quality/pollution

26 respondents commented on air quality and pollution. These mainly stated the positive impact the scheme was having on the local area, a selection of these are below:

'This scheme would be an important step in pioneering initiatives in the UK to improve air quality and make school streets safer'

'This scheme keeps our children safer & the area outside the school less polluted'

'Clean air matters'

'Any move to reduce air pollution for local children, and to make the streets around the school safer should be supported'

'Encouraging walking to school, reducing pollution and making the school area a safe environment and prevention of accidents should be supported.'

'It has made a real difference to road safety and pollution levels.'

Officer comment – Improving air quality and reducing pollution is one of the aims of the scheme. This will continue to be monitored if the scheme is made permanent.