



Healthy School Streets Consultation – Minster Road Permanent Proposals Consultation Information Sheet



Proposals to make the trial changes on Minster Road permanent

Making your neighbourhood safer and healthier

The Covid-19 pandemic changed how communities live, travel and work. We want to transform our streets, so they have **more safe space for everyone to walk and cycle**, for **children to get to and from school safely**, for you to be **breathing cleaner air**, to **reduce carbon emissions** from road transport, and for **businesses to flourish**. We want to ensure that our streets support recovery from the pandemic and provide a lasting legacy of **greener, safer, healthier travel**, helping us to deliver our wider environmental and strategic transport objectives.

As 69% of households in Camden do not own a car and public transport usage remains lower than before the pandemic, we know that safe and easy walking, cycling, and scooting routes are more important than ever. Supporting and encouraging those who can walk and cycle by creating safer streets will ensure that there is more space available on public transport and on our roads for those who need it the most.



To help respond to the transport challenges on our streets caused by the pandemic, and in line with our [Camden Transport Strategy](#) and [Climate Action Plan](#), we have been making changes across Camden as part of our [Safe and Healthy Streets Programme](#).

Healthy School Streets create a safer and healthier environment by temporarily closing roads to motor traffic outside schools during drop off and pick up times. This enables more children to walk, cycle or scoot to school, with less air pollution, road danger, congestion, and more space for people to interact. Healthy School Streets help to discourage car trips,

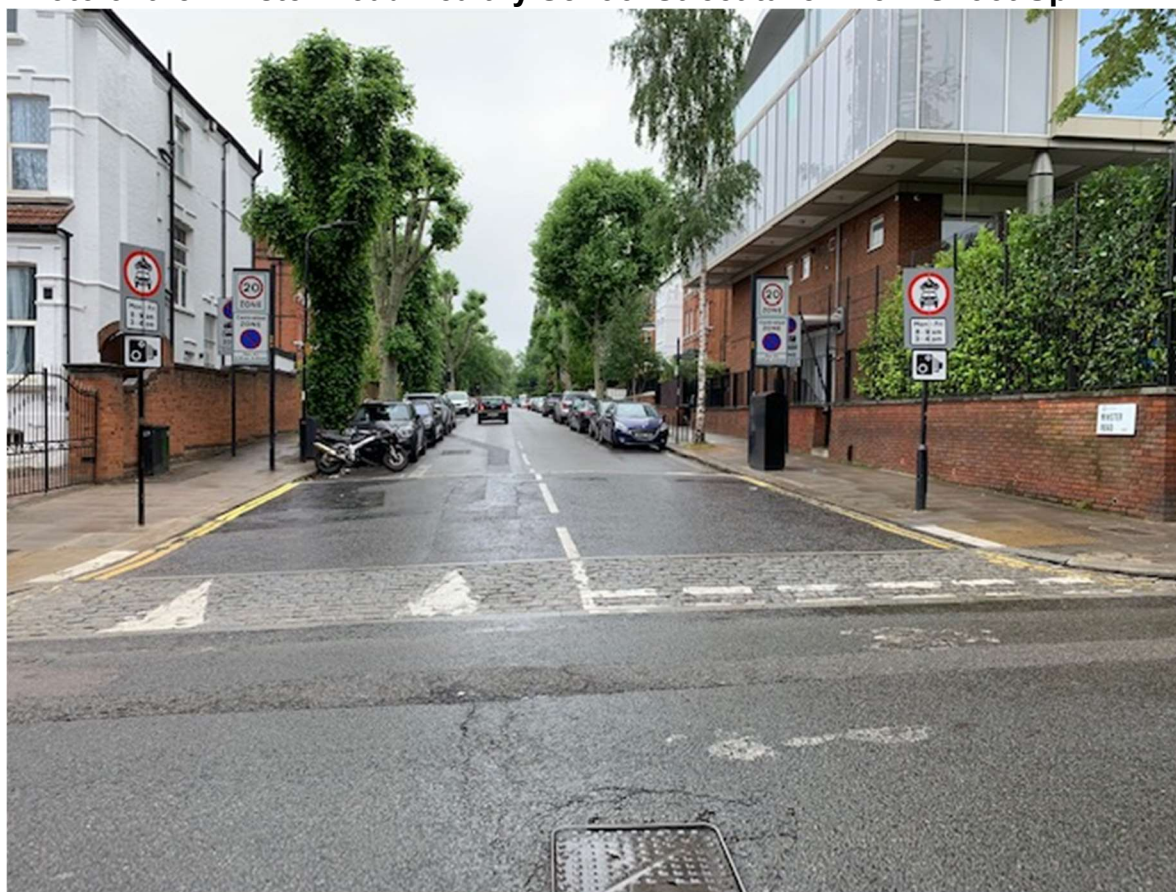


particularly amongst parents and carers, by providing a safe and inviting space for more walking, cycling, and scooting.

Camden Council has rolled out 15 Healthy School Streets schemes across the borough since March 2020. This brings the total number of [Healthy School Streets schemes](#) in the borough to 21, covering 27 schools. These schools are covered by timed or permanent road closures.

About the Minster Road Healthy School Street Scheme

Photo of the Minster Road Healthy School Street taken from Shoot Up Hill



The Minster Road Healthy School Street scheme consists of the timed road closure of Minster Road at its junctions with Shoot Up Hill and Fordwych Road. The closure for motor vehicles is in place for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon to coincide with the opening and closing times of the school, from 8am to 9am and 3pm to 4pm Monday to Friday during term time only.

We implemented the scheme, following its [approval](#) in June 2020, as a trial under an Experimental Traffic Order which came into force on 3rd September 2020. We said then that a further consultation, after approximately 12 months of the trial scheme, would take



place relating to any proposed permanent changes. The trial scheme went live in September 2020 and during this period the scheme has been monitored and comments from local residents and stakeholders have been received.

This consultation now asks local residents and stakeholders to give their views on whether or not the scheme should be made permanent after the end of the 18-month Experimental Traffic Order trial period.

Monitoring information collected before and during the trial

During the trial period of the scheme, we have been collecting monitoring data which can be viewed in detail in the monitoring factsheet provided in the “**Related**” section of the [online consultation front page](#). Headlines include:

- Traffic counts taken when the scheme signage was unveiled, but cameras not operational, show that the section of Minster Road with Healthy School Street restrictions experienced an average of 311 fewer vehicles in the morning school drop off time and 275 fewer vehicles in the afternoon school pick up time compared to the section of Minster Road surveyed without restrictions (although this section of Minster Road receives traffic from Fordwych Road and Westbere Road). This is explored in further detail in the monitoring factsheet. We will carry out further traffic counts to help us measure the impact of the scheme which will be analysed as part of the process to decide whether to make the scheme permanent.
- Data shows that speeds were low and all roads surveyed complied with the 20mph speed limit.

Feedback received during the Experimental Traffic Order Period

Forty-seven comments on the scheme were received on the dedicated Commonplace website during the trial Experimental Traffic Order period. Twenty-one of the respondents were positive towards the changes with feedback including:

- Respondents highlighted quieter and safer streets and improved air quality as a result of the scheme.
- Several respondents stated that the scheme made them more likely to walk and cycle.
- Several respondents expressed a wish for the scheme to be extended and/or introduced to other streets in Camden.



Those that were not supportive of the scheme shared issues around:



- Potential traffic displacement onto other nearby streets as a result of the scheme.
- Several respondents stated that their journeys took longer and traffic levels had not improved or had got worse.
- As a result of the above, several respondents stated that they thought air pollution and road safety in the area had worsened.

What are we now consulting on?

Considering the monitoring data and feedback received from residents and stakeholders during the trial period, and in line with policies and objectives set out in our Camden Transport Strategy, Climate Action Plan and Clean Air Action Plan, we are now consulting on making the trial changes to Minster Road permanent.

You can view the scheme drawings in the “**Related**” section of the online consultation front page. No design changes to the trial scheme arrangements are proposed.

The Minster Road Healthy School Street consists of the timed road closure of Minster Road between the junctions of Shoot Up Hill and Fordwych Road during school drop off and pick up times. This is enforced using signage and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. The traffic restrictions are in place between 8am - 9am and 3pm - 4pm Monday to Friday during school term time only. The ANPR cameras only record vehicles travelling into the zone during the hours of operation. If a vehicle is already parked within the zone it can be driven out of the area without incurring a fine. These features are proposed to be retained in the permanent scheme, if approved following consultation.

The following vehicles are currently exempt from the restrictions:

- Cycles including standard and electric powered bicycles.
- Vehicles registered to properties and businesses within the restricted area, where exemptions have been agreed with the Council.
- Any vehicle being used for ambulance, fire brigade or policing purposes.
- Refuse collection vehicles.
- Blue Disabled Badge holders, where exemptions have been agreed with the Council.
- Vehicles belonging to parents or carers of pupils of the schools within the zone that have a disability that prevents them from walking, cycling, or scooting to school, where exemptions have been agreed with the Council.

Why your views matter



As 40% of households in the area do not have access to a car and public transport patronage levels remain lower than before the pandemic, we know that safe and easy walking, cycling, and scooting routes are more important than ever. Supporting and encouraging those who are able to walk and cycle by creating safer streets will ensure that there is more space available on public transport and on our roads for those who need it the most.

The previous changes were implemented as a trial under an Experimental Traffic Order for 18 months. We said we would undertake a public consultation after around 12 months of the trial scheme to seek the views of local residents and stakeholders on making the trial scheme permanent after the 18-month trial period ends.

Your views are important in providing feedback on the proposed final scheme, and we would therefore welcome your responses. To view the plans and find out more about the proposals, click on the links in the “**Related**” section of the online consultation front page.

The Council will be pleased to hear your views on the proposals as well as any alternative suggestions or objections you may have to any aspect of what we are proposing.

What happens next?



After the consultation a decision report will be produced and published online on our website. Local residents and stakeholders will be notified of the outcome. The report will consider the consultation responses, relevant policies, and other data and information.

The report will then outline if, at the end of the trial period, the experimental scheme should be made permanent, modified, or allowed to lapse.

The consultation closes on **Wednesday 15th December 2021**.