





Making your neighbourhood safer and healthier

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed how communities in Camden live, travel and work. Many of us have been spending more time closer to home, making quieter and safer neighbourhoods more important than ever. We want our streets to have more space for everyone to walk and cycle, for you to be breathing cleaner air, for children to get to and from school safely and for businesses to be able to flourish. Whether it's an essential journey like taking your children to school, getting to work or just popping out to enjoy your local park we want you to love where you live, and to love Camden.

Following a public consultation earlier this year we will be trialling a motor traffic-free environment on a section of Queen's Crescent between Bassett Street and Weedington Road. We are also introducing a motor vehicle restriction on Weedington Road and on Grafton Road. The purpose of this trial is to improve pedestrian facilities and reduce traffic dominance in the area, responding to concerns the community has raised going back as far as 2015.



The scheme is intended to make it easier and safer for people to walk and cycle and to help make Queen's Crescent and the streets around it a more pleasant place to visit, shop and spend time.

What's the challenge on Queen's Crescent?

The need for improvements to Queen's Crescent to support walking and cycling and reduce traffic volumes and speeds was identified by the local community in 2015, via the Gospel Oak Regeneration consultation. Since then, Camden has been successful in securing £1.1m from the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund to support a range of high street improvement works (Queen's Crescent Public Realm project) to better serve the local community.

Queen's Crescent is used as a through route by many motor vehicles seeking to cut through between Malden Road and Prince of Wales Road or Kentish Town Road. This makes Queen's Crescent a less safe and attractive neighbourhood centre for local people; the majority of whom told us, in the public consultation, that they travel to Queen's Crescent by walking. Queen's Crescent also has a history of road traffic accidents with a concentration of collisions between motor vehicles and those on foot and travelling by bike.

We also want to support the 17 recommendations from Camden's Citizens Assembly on the climate crisis, which included requests to plant more trees and trial more car-free zones. This scheme also helps to deliver Camden Transport Strategy priorities, which were strongly supported when we consulted on them, including increasing walking and cycling, improving air quality, and making our streets and transport networks safe, accessible and inclusive for all. You can read more about our strategy on our website at camden.gov.uk/transport-strategies-and-plans.



Thank you for your comments

From 27th January to 28th February 2021 we ran a 4-week consultation on the changes proposed for this area. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views.

We had over 340 responses and following the consultation we have modified the proposals based on the feedback received and made the decision to implement the proposed modified changes as a trial. You can read the decision report relating to this, which contains full details on the consultation and our responses to feedback received, as well as an Equalities Impact Assessment for the scheme on our website at camden.gov.uk/making-travel-safer-in-camden.

In summary, some of the main responses to the consultation are below:

- An overall majority of those who responded to the consultation indicated that they did not agree that Queen's Crescent is currently a pleasant place to visit, shop and spend time.
- Overall, 49.7% of people agreed with plans for a motor traffic-free zone on Queen's Crescent versus 43.5% of people who did not.
- The consultation also showed that walking was by far the main way people travelled to Queen's Crescent.

Data also highlights that 32,000 people live within a 15-minute walk (0.7 miles) of Queen's Crescent.

Based on feedback received in this consultation we have made the following changes to the original proposed scheme:

- The eastern boundary of the motor traffic free environment on Queen's Crescent has been shifted west of Weedington Road, shortening the traffic-free area in response to comments raised in the consultation, and reducing parking loss on Weedington Road.
- The proposed diagonal motor vehicle restriction at the junction of Grafton Road and Queen's Crescent has been modified to restrict motor vehicle movements near the zebra crossing outside Carlton Primary in response to comments raised in the consultation.
- A motor vehicle restriction will now also be introduced on Weedington Road at the junction north of Queen's Crescent, restricting northbound and southbound vehicular movements.
- The measures on Weedington Road and Grafton Road will protect streets such as Vicars Road and Wellesley Road from through traffic seeking a route between Malden Road and Prince of Wales Road or Kentish Town Road. Traffic data shows that on existing street market days Vicars Road sees a doubling of traffic volumes. Bringing forward the proposed measures on Queen's Crescent without these restrictions would mean that Vicars Road would be vulnerable to these increases seven days a week.

What's going to change?

Following the public consultation and the decision to proceed with the trial that includes the changes listed above, we will now be making changes to Queen's Crescent, Allcroft Road, Weedington Road and Grafton Road.



These changes are designed to reduce traffic dominance and make walking and cycling safer and easier, improve air quality and respond to the engagement in this area since 2015, all whilst bringing heavily anticipated public realm improvements to the area on a trial basis before a full public consultation, 6 months after a trial scheme, is launched.

To do this we will:

1. Introduce planters in the road and new signage to indicate the motor traffic free zone and to prevent vehicles entering the motor traffic-free environment, at the following locations:
 - On Queen's Crescent to the east of the junction with Bassett Street.
 - On Queen's Crescent to the west of the junction with Weedington Road.
2. Introduce a removable bollard in the road and new signage to prevent vehicles entering or exiting Allcroft Road at the junction with Queen's Crescent.
3. Introduce planters in the road and new signage to restrict northbound and southbound motor vehicular movements on Grafton Road (approximately 50m to the north of the junction with Queen's Crescent).
4. Introduce new signage to restrict northbound and southbound motor vehicle movements on Weedington Road (at the junction north of Queen's Crescent).
5. Introduce a one-way (eastbound) arrangement for exempted motor vehicles within the motor traffic-free environment. Cycling will be allowed in both directions.
6. Introduce an exemption for loading within the motor traffic-free environment between:
 - 7pm - 11am on Monday - Wednesday, Friday and Sunday
 - 7pm - 7am on Thursdays and Saturdays.
7. Remove 'paid-for' parking on Queen's Crescent within the motor-traffic free environment.
8. Introduce two new disabled parking spaces, one on Queens Crescent and one on Allcroft Road.
9. Introduce new traffic enforcement cameras, signage and road markings.
10. Introduce public realm improvements including parklets, street paint, outdoor seating and greenery within the motor traffic free zone.
11. Work is scheduled to commence from the 27th May 2021 - some minor noise should be expected.



What's not going to change?

- The existing street market will continue to operate on Thursday and Saturdays.
- Pedestrians and those on pedal bikes will always be able to travel freely without restrictions.



- Parking spaces and spaces for loading, outside of the motor traffic-free zone, will be retained on sections of Queen's Crescent and on the surrounding streets, so those who need to park on, or in close proximity to, Queen's Crescent will still be able to do so.
- Emergency services and refuse vehicles will always be able to access every property.
- The Queen's Crescent Community Centre minibus, Camden's Plusbus door to door service and TfL's dial a ride will also continue to be able to access every property in the motor traffic free zone; outside of the existing street market times.

How can you give your views during the trial?

We are using Experimental Traffic Orders to make these changes. This allows us to trial changes on streets as an experiment so that we can see how they work before any decision on whether to make them permanent is made.

You have the right to comment at any point during the trial period via email, phone or online. Once the scheme is in place, we would encourage you to use our dedicated Commonplace website to share your views on how the changes are going and answer a few quick questions via:

camden.gov.uk/CommentQueensCrescent

You can use this QR to access the site from your phone.

Once the changes have been up and running for a little while we will check in with all local residents and stakeholders over the summer to remind you how to comment.

We will also contact all residents and stakeholders with more information ahead of a full public consultation on the scheme after the trial has been in place for six months.

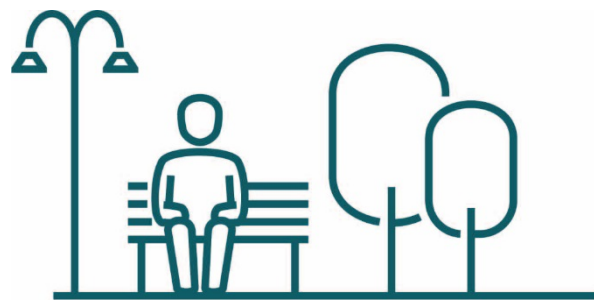


See the changes

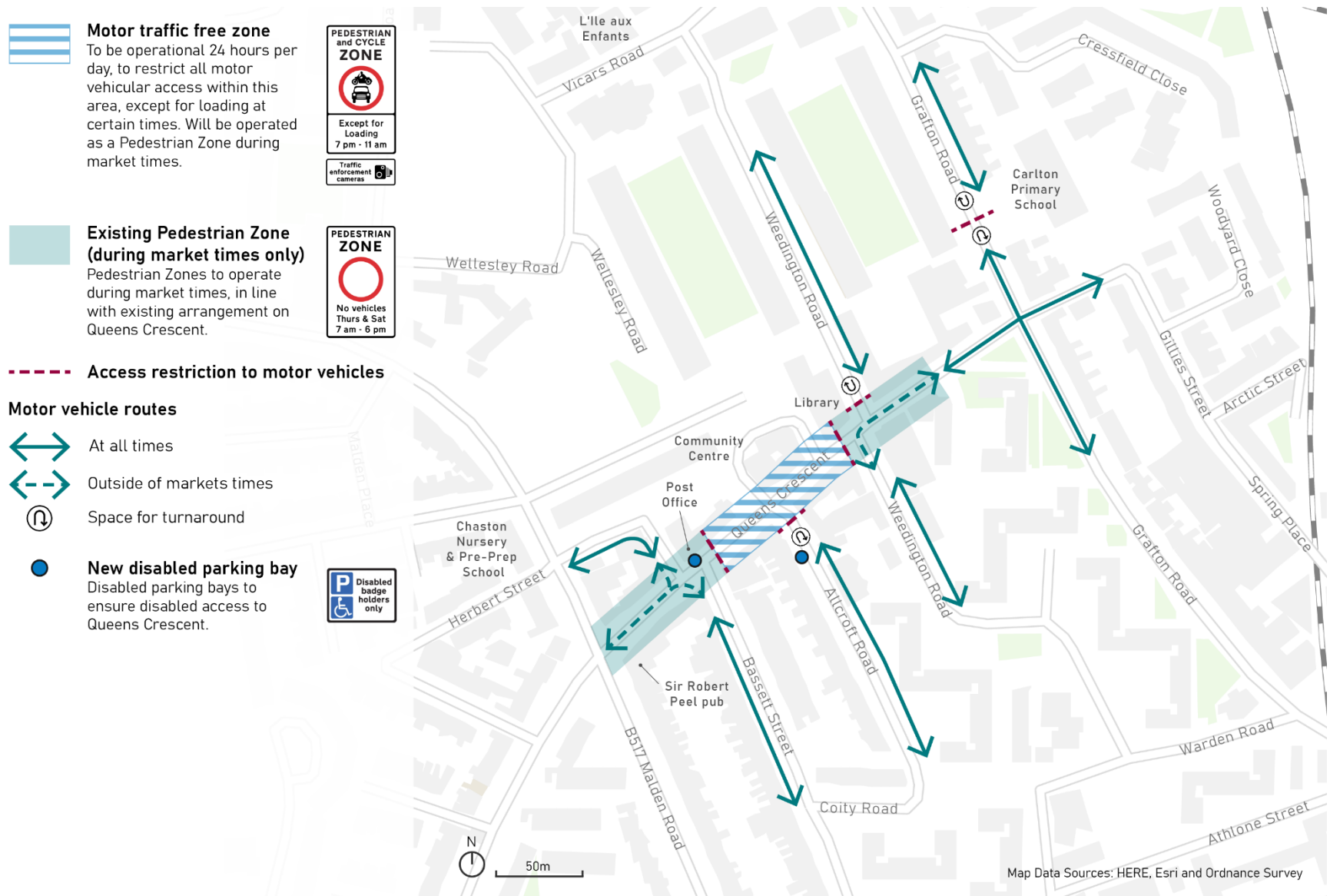
The drawings overleaf are intended to help you understand how the changes will look.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch via SafeTravel@camden.gov.uk

**Kind regards,
Camden Transport Strategy**

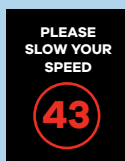


Overview Map

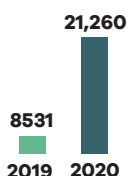


Responding to the challenges of Covid-19 in your neighbourhood

We want to keep your neighbourhoods safe from speeding...



Speeding is the main cause of road death.



London speeding enforcements till August (149% increase)

BAME Londoners are more at risk of being killed or seriously injured, BAME children are on average **1.5x** more likely to be affected than non-BAME children.



...so we are reducing traffic in residential streets

Covid-19 is causing extra cars across Camden... and it's getting busier on our streets

TfL estimates if all car owning households switched their usual public transport journeys to cars there would be **nearly double** the traffic in Camden plus extra from other boroughs



38% of people at risk of deprivation, 36% of women and 31% of disabled people who don't cycle said **they'd like to give it a go**



Supporting Camden residents to travel sustainably

8/10 trips by Camden residents are not made by car.



Almost 50% of journeys by Camden residents are on foot or by bike.



In Camden, 69% of households **don't have a car**, so providing safe and easy walking and cycling facilities is crucial.

Camden residents love their bikes

Weekday cycling at 2 locations in Camden have seen an average increase of 106% this August to last.



Children want to travel healthily and safely to school

We surveyed 14 local schools and 51% of pupils walked, scooted or cycled to school.



We want you to breathe easy....

Breathing in polluted air can have short and long-term impacts on our health, at any stage in our lives.

Lockdown measures led to a 53% reduction in traffic levels in London, reducing the overall level of pollutants in our air. We want to see **air quality improvements continue** now lockdown has eased.



Health is everything

42% of Camden residents are overweight or obese, increasing the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19.

Just a 20-minute walk can prevent long-term health conditions like Type 2 diabetes, heart disease and certain cancers, as well as being good for your mental health.

20 mins



Find out more

To find out more on how we are making travel safer in Camden visit:

www.camden.gov.uk/making-travel-safer-in-camden
safetravel@camden.gov.uk / 020 7974 4444

To give your general suggestions and feedback visit:
safetravelcamden.commonplace.is

To learn to cycle for the first time,
improve your cycling skills or for
a bike loan to help you your
way visit:

www.camden.gov.uk/cycling

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