



Safe and Healthy Streets consultation

Changes to Queen's Crescent

What's the challenge on Queen's Crescent?

We know from listening to local people that there is a desire to make walking on Queen's Crescent easier and safer, and to reduce the dominance of traffic. Car ownership in this area is low and the numbers of pedestrians on Queen's Crescent are high.

The Covid-19 pandemic means more people are spending more time in their local areas and that local neighbourhood centres, such as Queen's Crescent, are now more important than ever.

We understand that Queen's Crescent is used as a through route by many motor vehicles seeking to cut between Malden Road and Prince of Wales Road/Kentish Town Road. We understand that Queen's Crescent is used as a 'through route' by many motor vehicles, making it less attractive as a neighbourhood centre for everyday essentials and services within walking distance of the local community. Data the council has gathered shows that over 90% of trips made for shopping purposes in Camden take place by walking, cycling or public transport.

What is being proposed?

Camden has already secured £1.1m to support [public realm improvements on Queen's Crescent](#) within the existing market area (between Malden Road and Grafton Road), with the associated community co-design highlighting priorities to address traffic volumes and road safety. This scheme involved numerous enhancements to spaces in and around Queens Crescent. Within the Queen's Crescent public realm project [Stage 2 report](#) a design proposal was brought to Greater London Authority (GLA) Design Review Panel who are funding the project. The GLA's panel indicated that a more ambitious scheme should be considered to respond to the challenges posed by the pandemic and the priorities raised by the community.

To build upon the proposed improvements, we would like to trial measures to make walking and cycling safer and easier and respond to the challenges raised by the pandemic. We will be monitoring throughout as well as undertaking another consultation in the autumn to determine whether the trial was a success. If so, the findings would help to enhance the existing proposals for the street in order to deliver a transformational improvement to the centre, pending a full public consultation in the autumn of 2021.

The proposals would trial a motor traffic-free environment that will reduce traffic volumes and speeds, support the existing market and local businesses, and allow more space for social distancing, walking, and cycling. The proposals also include measures at the junction of Queen's Crescent and Grafton Road to ensure that through traffic motor vehicles do not use Grafton Road, Vicar's Road and Wellesley Road as a cut through between main roads creating a safer and quieter environment for residents in the area.

The proposed changes include:

- The introduction of a motor traffic free environment on Queen's Crescent between Weedington Road and Bassett Street. Planters and new signage will be used to indicate the motor traffic-free zone. The proposed motor traffic-free zone would enable the Council to work with local business and the community to introduce parklets and seating that would support the cafes and restaurants along Queen's Crescent.
- New disabled parking bays and loading bays will be introduced on Allcroft Road and Weedington Road to the south of Queen's Crescent. The disabled parking bays will be located immediately adjacent to the junctions with Queen's Crescent, ensuring easy access to the markets and shops for blue badge holders. An additional new disabled parking space will be provided outside the Post Office on Queens Crescent.
- Parking spaces within the motor traffic-free zone will be removed to support the creation of a motor traffic free zone. However, Parking spaces will be retained on sections of Queens Crescent (outside the motor traffic free zone) and on the surrounding streets so those who need to drive to Queen's Crescent will still be able to. Parking changes are available to view on the [parking changes design](#).
- An exemption for loading, for businesses, within the motor traffic free environment between the hours of 7pm and 11am on Monday-Wednesday and Sunday. On Thursdays and Saturdays loading exemption would be between 7pm to 7am in line with the existing market operations. Vehicles loading within the motor traffic free environment will be required to obey a new one-way arrangement. An detailed overview of the proposals is available as the [Queens Crescent Plan](#).
- Outside of the above times businesses will be able to load from outside the motor traffic-free zone at the northern end of Allcroft Road and on Weedington Road with additional sections of double yellow lines accommodating loading.
- Using ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) cameras to enforce the restriction which would identify any vehicles entering the zone outside of the loading exemption or using Queen's Crescent as a through route. Anyone found to be entering the zone illegally would be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).
- Retaining motor vehicle access to the Queen's Crescent Community Association via the existing link from Malden Road to the north of Queen's Crescent and Gilden Crescent.
- A restriction is also proposed to be trialed at the junction of Queen's Crescent and Grafton Road, restricting northbound and southbound vehicular movements along Grafton Road at the junction with Queen's Crescent. The purpose of this restriction is

to prevent traffic that currently uses Queen's Crescent to route between Malden Road/Southampton Road/Mansfield Road and Kentish Town Road/Prince of Wales Road from using Vicar's Road/Wellesley Road as an alternative route. Journeys between these locations would still be possible via Malden Road and Prince of Wales Road. This will reduce traffic on Grafton Road providing a safer environment for walking and cycling, particularly outside the Carlton Primary School.

- An ambition to hold a smaller street market within the motor traffic free zone on additional days. The existing street market will continue to operate on Thursday and Saturdays.

How would these changes be made?

- This consultation runs for a four week period (until February 24th 2021).
- Once the consultation closes, the feedback received will be assessed and incorporated into the scheme where possible. These proposals would then be subject to a Decision Report, which will factor in the consultation responses as well as other information and data, to decide on whether or not to proceed with the scheme.
- The trial scheme, if approved following this current consultation, would be implemented via an Experimental Traffic Order and would enable the local community, traders and business owners on the street to test how the new public space created by the trial could be used. This could include the market operating on additional days, creating outdoor seating for business/market customers and other aspects of the Queen's Crescent Public Real Strategy, including more greening, better lighting and support for the market.
- After 6 months of the trial, there would be a further public consultation on a permanent scheme which could potentially contain both elements of the trial and elements of the proposals within the Stage 2 report of the Queen's Crescent Public Realm project.