

Somers Town School Streets Additional Safe and Healthy Streets Proposals – Online Session Overview

As part of the Somers Town School Streets Additional Safe and Healthy Streets consultation, Camden hosted an online engagement session.

Here we outline comments and questions asked by attendees, and our responses.

Traffic on Cranleigh Street

Concerns were raised about traffic congestion on Cranleigh street, and that this might get worse if the street is made narrower. There were concerns that adding more rain gardens (areas of planting that soak up rainwater) would result in worse congestion, cars mounting the kerb and parking on the pavement. A suggestion was made to restrict traffic from driving into the eastern end of Cranleigh Street, past the junction with Werrington Street.

Response: These concerns are noted and will be considered as part of the consultation. This proposed project is not able to introduce any traffic restrictions, however, officers highlighted that separate changes proposed as part of the Greening Phoenix Road project, expected in early 2026, would help reduce through traffic overall. Officers would continue to monitor traffic on Cranleigh Street if the proposals are approved.

When designing schemes, we design under the assumption that all parking spaces will be filled, as there are times when this will be the case. For this reason, when proposing rain gardens, we design them to the same width as any previous parking to ensure that they do not block the road at all. If the proposals are approved, they would also require a road safety audit.

Concerns about Access for Tradesmen, Deliveries and Carers

Some attendees raised concerns about access to residential buildings for tradesmen deliveries and carers.

Response: When designing the proposals for this scheme, the need for loading was considered and areas for loading were included in the designs. Based on comments from this session, should the proposal be approved we would consider whether the current loading locations are sufficient for residents' needs.

Concerns about Maintenance of Street Features

Some attendees raised concerns about a lack of maintenance for rain gardens and cycle stands.

Response: We will pass these concerns on to the relevant maintenance teams.

Concerns about Historic Cobblestones on Cranleigh Street

Concerns were raised about the replacement of cobblestones on Cranleigh Street, both by rain gardens and by the filling of potholes.

Response: In response to the pothole concern, we will pass this feedback on to the relevant team.

For rain gardens, we use high quality granite for their borders to ensure that streets continue to look pleasant. If the proposals are approved, we would consider whether there is a way to repurpose old cobblestones in future rain garden design to maintain the current cobbled look.

Raised Crossings in Front of Cranleigh Street Garages

Support was expressed for the raised crossings proposed in front of the garages on Cranleigh Street.

Concern that Residents are not Aware of the Proposals and their Specific Locations

Attendees requested door-to-door visits from officers to inform residents of the proposals and suggested that we send a leaflet to every resident parking permit holder.

Response: Unfortunately, we do not have sufficient resources to visit every resident in the area to discuss the proposals. However, a leaflet about the proposals, with a link to the website, was sent to every address in Somers Town. This means resident permit holders will have already received a leaflet. We also provide a paper version of all proposals on request.

On the website, residents can find a street-by-street breakdown of the proposals, and a link to the consultation plans, which show the exact locations of all of the proposed changes.

We noted this concern and will consider the possibility of sending street-specific leaflets in future consultations. We have also added a link to the consultation plans to the top of the consultation website to ensure that they are easy for everyone to find.

Concern about the Loss of Parking on Charrington Street

Response: The loss of parking would be needed to facilitate the other proposed improvements. On Charrington Street, we have proposed to relocate as many parking spaces as possible to ensure there is sufficient remaining parking provision. We have calculated that, after the parking impacts of the Phoenix Road scheme, the Green Mobility Hubs, and the proposals for this scheme, there would still be spare parking capacity on impacted streets or on nearby streets.

Concern that the Rain Garden on Charrington Street may Block Access to Residents' Homes

Response: We have noted this concern and, should the proposals be approved, would consider whether this rain garden was in an optimal location.

Is There Demand for a Community Cycle Shelter?

A suggestion was made to place the community cycle shelter in a nearby park.

Response: Somers Town community cycling groups have asked for a shelter to store their bicycles, which they lend to residents, as they have had issues finding a permanent indoor home for them. The shelter is proposed to be installed on Charrington Street as this is where the group meet. We would ensure that this shelter is see-through so that it would be obvious that the contents of the shelter are not particularly valuable, in order to discourage antisocial behaviour. Overall, we believe that reclaiming street space for this shelter is preferable to using the already limited green and open space available in the area, which is needed for resident relaxation and recreation.