

Liveable Streets Bethnal Green Consultation FAQs

Liveable Streets

What is the 'Liveable Streets' programme?

The Liveable Streets programme is funded by the Mayor of Tower Hamlets and aims to improve the look and feel of roads and public spaces in your neighbourhood. By creating a better and safer environment, we can make it more convenient to get around by foot, bike and public transport.

Following early engagement and workshops local residents have told us that congestion in the borough is an issue and that they are concerned about anti-social behaviour and pollution in the area. By reducing traffic and changing the road layout, we will make the areas safer, cleaner and help to reduce pollution in the area. Our vision is to continue to work with residents and businesses to create vibrant, safe neighbourhoods to promote travel by sustainable methods.

What does the programme aim to deliver?

- Improve the look and feel of public spaces.
- Encourage more walking and cycling and use of public transport in the borough, especially for local trips.
- Significantly reduce through-traffic on local residential streets.
- Improve air quality.

What are the benefits of the programme?

For pedestrians:

- A network of pedestrian-friendly, low traffic zones connected by formal crossing points, to make walking safer, easier and more accessible.
- A more pleasant walking environment with improved footways, planting trees and shrubs, improved lighting and public art, to improve the attractiveness of walking routes and reduce fear of crime.

For cyclists:

- A network of cycle-friendly, low traffic zones connected by formal crossing points, to make cycling safer, easier and more accessible.
- Increase in cycle facilities, such as secure cycle parking at public transport hubs and retail areas, and cycle hangars in residential streets, to remove existing barriers to cycling and make cycling more accessible.

For businesses:

- Improved public realm in retail areas to attract visitors.
- Increase in footfall in retail areas, creating a boost for businesses in our town
- Provide seating, greening and tree planting to encourage customers to linger.

For residents:

- Improved local streetscape with reduced noise, ASB and road danger.
- Residents will be able to access better connected routes to the borough's town centres and to neighbouring boroughs.

For road users:

- The borough will be safer for all road users.
- An increase in cycling and walking among residents will reduce demand on local road network.

For everyone:

- Less traffic will reduce emissions, improve air quality and road safety, and reduce noise pollution – creating a more pleasant environment for all.
- Increase opportunities for physical activity during everyday journeys.
- More pleasant public spaces will make the borough more attractive to residents and visitors.

How will you increase the number of people choosing to walk or cycle?

Providing safer, better-connected routes throughout the borough will enable people of all abilities and ages to walk and cycle. This will also be supported by promoting free cycle training and other relevant complementary measures.

How will this be achieved?

This will be done through a variety of on-street infrastructure projects across the borough, such as changes to road layouts to give priority to walking, cycling and public transport. These projects will be supported by complementary measures to promote active travel.

Bethnal Green Proposals

When is the consultation happening?

Following on from co-design workshops on 27 June and 2 July, the next stage of the Liveable Streets programme in Bethnal Green is a public consultation which will run from Monday 28 October to 11.59pm on Monday 25 November. Please visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/liveablestreets to view the plans and have your say using our survey.

What's happened so far?

We heard from over 650 residents during our early engagement in May, who told us about the issues in Bethnal Green and what they wanted to see improved. This came in the form of online surveys, an interactive map, drop-in sessions and workshops within the scheme area, councillor and community group meetings.

How do I take part in the consultation?

Please visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/liveablestreets to view the plans and have your say using our survey. Alternatively, if you live within the scheme area you should receive a survey included within a booklet posted through your letterbox. Simply fill it in and send it back using the freepost addressed envelope enclosed.

We are also running drop-in events at the Professional Development Centre, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2 6AB, on:

- Saturday 9 November, 10am-12noon
- Thursday 14 November, 5pm-7pm

You can also email us at: liveablestreets@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Have emergency services been consulted about the proposals?

Yes, we have met with emergency services and gone through the designs with them. We have their support for the proposals.

What is being proposed?

Following the workshops, five new schemes are being proposed which will improve the area for walking, cycling and public transport, improve air quality and help discourage through-traffic and anti-social behaviour. You can find out more about these at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/liveablestreets

Are there any complementary measures and if so, what will they be?

Yes, complementary measures are being put in as part of the scheme. We are pleased to be able to address a number of these, which include:

- CCTV - additional CCTV cameras are proposed in anti-social behaviour hotspots.
- Decluttering of Bethnal Green Road - unnecessary street furniture will be removed and a deep clean of pavements and remaining street furniture will take place.
- Street Lighting – over the next two years the street lighting across the whole area will be updated with new energy saving LED lights. In addition, in areas like Ducal Street new lighting columns are proposed to improve visibility and safety in the area.
- Cycle parking – a further 100 cycle stands are proposed in the area of Bethnal Green to ensure that those passing shops, going to school, or visiting friends have somewhere to lock their bike.
- Secure cycle parking for residents (Cycle Hangars) - more hangars are proposed in the area, so residents have secure parking for their bicycles.
- Trees - as part of the proposals we shall be planting an extra 50 trees in the area.

We have been consulted on other schemes previously, what's happening with those?

As a result of previous consultations there are some existing schemes which will be implemented in the area:

- Cheshire Street will benefit from a widened pavement outside the shops, new seating areas, tree planting and improved street lighting.
- A road closure will be implemented on Bacon Street, west of Brick Lane.
- A one-way system will be introduced on Wood Close.
- An additional pedestrian crossing will be implemented on Dunbridge Street next to its junction with Ramsey Street.
- A two-way system will be introduced on Derbyshire Street between Buckfast Street and Vallance Road with a road closure at the junction of Derbyshire Street with Vallance.

Why are these proposals important?

Every day there are over 21,000 journeys within the Bethnal Green area. Of these, 57% are vehicles travelling through the area and not stopping. This means over 11,000 journeys are from non-residents of the local area and these vehicles are contributing to the already unacceptable level of air pollution on your street, outside your schools and around your local shops. These vehicles bring additional noise, road danger and anti-social behaviour which make your streets feel unsafe for walking and cycling. The proposals will help improve air quality, road safety and give the streets back to the residents.

Will there be any parking loss in the area?

We will ensure there is no net parking loss across controlled parking zones A1 and A5.

Will the implementation of the scheme result in any loss of trees within the area?

There will be no net loss of trees within the scheme area.



How do I find more information about the project?

Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/liveablestreets to find out more information

What happens next?

After the consultation period, we will collate all the feedback and comments we have received during this time. We will then appropriately feed it back to our design team in trying to make the improvements work for everyone within the Bethnal Green area.

If the plans are agreed, when will work start?

Timescales are to be confirmed but are likely to start in Spring 2020.