

Liveable Streets Wapping 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, as well as unobstructed and accessible footways 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.

Wapping Proposals

When is the consultation happening?

Following on from co-design workshops in July and September, the next stage of the Liveable Streets programme in Wapping is a public consultation which will run from Monday 18 November to 11:59pm on Monday 16 December. 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 100 local residents during our early engagement in April and May, who told us about the issues in Wapping and what they wanted to see improved. You gave us your feedback through our online survey, interactive map, drop-in sessions, Councillor meetings and meetings with groups in the community. In your area, you said you want:

- Improved public spaces
- Improved cycling and walking conditions
- Reduced traffic

What is being proposed?

Following the workshops where attendees helped to develop practical ways to implement the feedback from the wider Wapping community, four new schemes are being proposed. These will improve the area for walking, cycling and public transport, improve air quality and help discourage anti-social behaviour. You can find out more details on the proposals at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/liveablestreets

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:

- Tuesday, 3rd December, 5pm - 7pm
Step-by-step Nursery, 2nd Floor
15 Chandler Street, Wapping,
London, E1W 3QT
- Saturday, 7th December, 10am – 12noon
St Peter's London Docks, CofE School
Garnet Street, Wapping,
London, E1W 3QT

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.

How do I feedback on the Wapping Bus Gateway?

The Wapping Bus Gateway started operation on Wednesday 13 November 2019. The bus gateway operates on weekdays from 5:30am to 10:30am and from 4pm to 7pm. Only buses and bicycles will be exempt during operating times, however every property is still accessible when it is in operation via alternative routes.

The bus gateway will address concerns from residents about rat-running and the problems it causes in local streets, such as noise and air pollution, and safety concerns. By reducing the volume of traffic travelling through Wapping, it will enable other improvements to take place, such as those outlined in this consultation.

The bus gateway has been introduced on an experimental basis. From day one of its implementation you will be able to make comments, ask questions or raise concerns. We will review this feedback – and the evidence we collect on changes to traffic flows – and will make any necessary changes by May 2020.

If you have feedback on the bus gateway specifically, or would like more information about it, please visit: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/wappingbusgateway

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

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

- Accessibility Improvements - unnecessary street furniture will be removed and dropped kerbs installed where required to ensure footways are accessible for everyone.
- Cycle parking – additional cycle stands are proposed near Wapping Station and near the Wapping Lane shops 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. Please let us know via the survey at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/liveablestreets if you are interested in secure on-street cycle parking near your house or business.
- Trees - as part of the proposals we shall be planting additional trees in the area.

Why are these proposals important?

We want to make Wapping an even better place to live, work and visit. Our studies and comments from early engagement indicate that the area is far from being pedestrian and cycle friendly. Uneven footways, poor quality carriageways, cluttered and narrow pavements with little or no disability access, poor street lighting that encourages anti-social behaviour in public spaces are all barriers to a safe, active and healthy Wapping.

Liveable Streets proposals can unlock the area's potential and transform Wapping into the most attractive and liveable neighbourhood possible, which is accessible to and enjoyed by all residents and visitors. This will be achieved by creating accessible and vibrant public spaces and by keeping through traffic to surrounding roads whilst maintaining local access for residents and businesses and enhancing accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists through the neighbourhood.

Will there be any parking loss in the area?

There will be net parking loss of four spaces along the full length of Wapping High Street, made up of one space removed near Wapping Station, and three spaces removed as a result of the footway widening. Where possible, parking spaces have been relocated, or new parking spaces proposed to offset any loss of parking.

Parking surveys undertaken in the area show that at the busiest time of the day only 66% of the parking spaces on Wapping High Street are used over the weekend and 43% are used on a weekday. We feel that this space could be better used to improve the pedestrian environment and make Wapping accessible for everyone.

There will be a net gain of two parking spaces on Wapping Lane. The single yellow line restriction will be retained on one side of the road to allow for loading and deliveries.

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 Wapping area.

If the plans are agreed, when will work start?

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