

Thank you for comments in response to the Section 23 notice concerning proposed raised pedestrian crossings on Wandsworth Bridge Road and the Traffic Order notice related to parking and loading bay changes on adjoining side streets.

All representations received were given proper and due consideration during the design revision process. In response to this feedback, the Council has made targeted adjustments to the scheme:

- Loading bays will no longer be proposed at this time in Studdridge Street and Beltran Road, reflecting concerns about location, parking stress and residential access.
- Cycle parking bays will no longer be proposed at this time in Clancarty Road and Ashcombe Street, reflecting concerns about placement, visual clutter, and demand justification. Similarly we will not proceed with the cargo bike bay in Studdridge Street.

Decisions about these interventions will be deferred to a later phase of works and reviewed again based on need.

You can read the full decision report [here](#).

Following the circulation of significant amounts of misinformation and incorrect assumptions by those who are opposed to the council's plans to implement safety, public realm, and environmental improvements in Wandsworth Bridge Road, we would also like to take this opportunity to clarify matters and address concerns.

Use of public funds

Council taxpayers' money has not been used to fund the Wandsworth Bridge Road project. The work is entirely funded by penalty charge payments received from non-H&F residents driving through the Clean Air Neighbourhood. By law, these charges are ring-fenced to be spent on the highways and public realm.

Consultation and engagement

The assertion that the council has not properly consulted residents and businesses is incorrect. The development of the Clean Air Neighbourhood and the redesign of Wandsworth Bridge Road follows one of the largest public engagement and consultation exercises this council has ever undertaken.

The engagement has involved hundreds of hours of meetings and working groups bringing together residents and businesses across South Fulham over the last five years. Three detailed leaflets were distributed to 15,000 homes. The presentation boards at the last two Spring Fayres, which have been viewed and commented on by hundreds of people, are just one small part of the wider consultation.

Further, the issues have been publicly debated extensively across two Cabinet reports in December 2021 and March 2024, as well as having received the overwhelming backing of residents in polling and survey exercises carried out in 2023/24.

We have also followed the full statutory notification process with Section 23 and Traffic Order notices to implement these changes. Furthermore, in excess of the statutory requirements, a letter from the Cabinet Member for the Public Realm was distributed to 6,761 homes and 282 businesses, detailing the proposed works.

The views contained in email responses as part of this process have been given proper and due consideration and reported to the Cabinet Member as part of the formal decision making process. This has resulted in the adjustments stated at the outset of this email.

Raised pedestrian crossings

The upgrade of all the pedestrian crossings on Wandsworth Bridge Road has been a long-standing proposal as part of the Clean Air Neighbourhood programme. The main work beginning this month will see the installation of four raised pedestrian crossings - three of which will replace existing uncontrolled refuge islands.

Conversion from pedestrian refuge islands in the middle of a busy road to raised zebra crossings is a well-proven intervention to improve safety for pedestrians, notably for people with mobility issues, wheelchair users and parents of young children with pushchairs. It will also require drivers, notably of HGVs, to slow down and drive more carefully. It may even discourage some HGV drivers from using the road at all.

Loading bays and congestion

The locations of new loading bays were carefully considered after a detailed survey of businesses along the road and a thorough analysis of parking stress on neighbouring streets. The loading bays are sited at the junctions with the main roads, so as not to interfere with residents' parking.

The loading bays are a long-sought for improvement to tackle one of the principal causes of congestion and gridlock on the main road - vans and lorries unloading their goods.

Cycle parking bays form part of our boroughwide programme to organise and tidy up every street ending the annoyance of bikes being dumped inconsiderately on pavements.

The interests of residents have been paramount in this process and are reflected in the adjustments to the programme that have been made.

Parklets and hospitality seating

It has been claimed that the council is proposing placing seating directly on the road. This is incorrect. The current community parklets and hospitality seating, which are protected from vehicles by planters, were always a temporary measure to demonstrate the principle that the sections of road on which they have been installed can be repurposed to provide improved facilities for pedestrians, shoppers and businesses.

Going forward – and only where road safety experts consider it appropriate – we will build out the kerb/pavement. These built-out areas of pavement will also help to slow traffic by creating a chicane effect. Community parklets will be removed and replaced with high quality community seating and planting. Hospitality seating will be installed where businesses have forward their own proposals and we have agreed with them the way forward.

As the 25th July letter to residents states;

“...decisions about replacing the hospitality seating structures will be taken in conjunction with local businesses. We will be asking them to put forward their own proposals as part of the redesign of the town centre.”

In all cases, any new permanent community or hospitality seating and greenery will be installed on new areas of pavement - not on the road.

Pride of place

We continue to be committed to working with residents and businesses to tackle the decades-old long problem of traffic, congestion and pollution in South Fulham for the betterment of the area .

Thank you again for sharing your views.

Yours sincerely

John Galsworthy

Director of Climate Change and Transport