

Report for: Head of Highways and Parking in consultation with Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services

Title: Wightman Road – Proposed Highway Improvements

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Ward(s) affected: Harringay

Report for Key/Non-Key Decision: Non-key decision

1 Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 To report on the feedback of statutory consultation carried out from 10 November to 01 December 2021, on proposals to carry out further highway improvement works on Wightman Road, as recommended in the associated post construction Road Safety Audit (RSA).
- 1.2 To seek approval to proceed to implementation, having considered objections received to the statutory consultation.

2 Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 N/A

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Head of Highways and Parking in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services is asked:

To approve the implementation of the proposals to carry out further highway improvement works on Wightman Road, as set out on the plan in Appendix A.

4 Reasons for decisions

- 4.1 The Council is required to consider the feedback received during the Statutory Notification period, in particular any objections to proposals, prior to proceeding to implementation. The proposals consulted upon, aim to improve the visibility for

vehicles existing the side roads onto Wightman Road, making it safer for all road users.

5 Proposed Option

- a) To convert sections of Permit Parking Bays to Double Yellow Lines (No Waiting At Any Time Restrictions) at the following locations;
 - (i) Outside 152 Wightman Road, N8 (a length of 2 metres)
 - (ii) Outside 218 Wightman Road, N8 (a length of 1 metre)
 - (iii) Outside 256 Wightman Road, N8 (a length of 1 metre)

- b) To convert sections of Shared Use Bays to Double Yellow Lines (No Waiting At Any Time Restrictions) at the following locations;
 - (i) Outside 272 Wightman Road, N8 (a length of 1 metre)
 - (ii) Outside 280 Wightman Road, N8 (a length of 1 metre)

6 Alternative options considered

6.1 None.

7 Background Information

- 7.1 Following the implementation of the highway improvement works along Wightman Road in 2019, which were recommended by the Green Lanes Area Transport Study (GLATS), a post implementation RSA was carried out to assess the safety and effectiveness of the scheme.

- 7.2 The RSA identified some issues in relation to sightlines for vehicles exiting some of the side roads onto Wightman Road. The study recommended the review of existing sightlines and to amend the layout, to ensure adequate sightlines are provided.

- 7.3 The sightlines were reviewed, following the post implementation RSA. The current forward visibility for locations where vehicles exit onto Wightman Road vary between 9m and 28m. In accordance with the Manual for Streets 2 (MFS2), reduced visibility at priority junctions is associated with reduced vehicle speed. It also states that the effects on pedestrians and cyclists are also positive as vehicle slow down on the approach and turn slowly as they exit on to the main road. Additionally, it helps pedestrians and cyclist establish priority.

- 7.4 The Councils aim is to provide a forward visibility of a minimum of 10m for the ladder roads exiting onto Wightman Road. This will be achieved by removing a cumulative length of 6m of existing parking bays outside numbers 152, 218, 256, 272 and 280 Wightman Road.

- 7.5 The Equality Act 2010 requires public sector authorities to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty in carrying out their functions. This includes making reasonable adjustments to the existing built environment to ensure the design of infrastructure is accessible to all. The scheme has been designed with these requirements considered.

7.6 These works are designed to further improve sightlines for vehicles exiting side roads onto Wightman Road making the road safer for all road users particularly the vulnerable users.

8 Consultation

8.1 Ward Councillors were informed of the proposals on 29 October 2021.

8.2 Notification documents were distributed to properties in the vicinity of the proposals on 10 November 2021. A copy of the statutory consultation document is shown in Appendix A and a copy of the consultation boundary can be found in Appendix B.

8.3 The Notification letter was uploaded on the council's website. Legal Notices were placed on street and in the local newspaper. A copy of the legal notice is shown in Appendix C.

9 Responses to Consultation

9.1 The Council received two responses during the statutory consultation period, one objecting to the proposals and one presenting other views.

9.1.1 Objection – Loss of Parking

The resident objected to the proposed highways improvements, due to the continual reductions in parking on Wightman Road. The resident further stated that the previous improvements implemented on Wightman Road such as the pinch points have not slowed down traffic. The resident would prefer more parking for residents, road closed to traffic if possible and enquired about a parking bay on Fairfax Road that was removed recently.

Council Response

The option to close Wightman Road was engaged on with the community as part of the Green Lanes study, however this was rejected by this engagement process in favour of the highway improvements implemented in 2019. Nevertheless, this is an option that can be considered as part of a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) scheme in future years works programmes. LTNs are residential areas where vehicles (except emergency vehicles) are prevented or discouraged from driving through them. This is achieved by 'filtering' the key points of some streets using measures including CCTV and planters, but allowing people walking, cycling, or using a mobility scooter to travel through.

The objectives of the highway improvement carried out on Wightman Road in 2019 were to improve road safety and accessibility, in particular for pedestrians and cyclists, by reducing vehicle speeds. The MFS1 guideline for forward visibility on a 20mph road is 25m. However, the MFS2 states reduced visibility at priority junctions are associated with reduced vehicle speeds. It also states that the effects on pedestrians and cyclists are also positive as vehicle slow down on the approach to junctions and turn slowly as they exit onto the main road; this helps pedestrians and cyclist establish priority.

The scheme included relocating existing partial footway parking fully onto the carriageway and the removal of existing speed tables and pedestrian refuges. It was acknowledged that removal of these traffic calming measures would lead to an increase in vehicular speeds. The proposal therefore included staggering the parking provision to create Chicanes and reducing the length of existing forward visibility splays to a minimum of 10m as traffic calming measures to help regulate traffic speeds.

Speed surveys were conducted before and after the highway improvement works. The pre-construction survey results show an average northbound speed of 18.8mph and southbound speed of 19mph. Following the introduction of the scheme, the survey results show average speeds of 17.6mph northbound and 17.3mph southbound. This equates to a reduction of 1.2mph northbound and 1.7mph southbound. The desired speed reduction was therefore achieved; however, an independent RSA was undertaken post construction to assess if there were any further safety issues which require addressing; this has suggested 5no. roads (listed below) exiting onto Wightman Road do not meet the design aim to achieve a minimum of 10m forward visibility.

- Raleigh Road
- Allison Road
- Seymour Road
- Effingham Road
- Lausanne Road

The identified amendments to achieve the scheme objectives (minimum 10m forward visibility) on these roads requires the removal of a cumulative length of 5m of existing parking bays outside nos. (152, 218, 256, 272, 280) Wightman Road.

The parking bay on Fairfax Road at its junction with Wightman Road was removed in error by our term contractor and will be reinstated.

10 Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 10.1 It is important that the Council has safe, green travel to prevent the borough's roads from being overrun by cars and to support active travel, which is the ambition of the Council as laid out in its [Borough Plan](#) and [Transport Strategy](#). The highways improvements will support the objectives set out in these documents as well as the wider initiatives to improve air quality and support the health of residents as per the council's [Climate Change Action Plan](#).

Statutory Officers' comments

11 Comments of the Chief Financial Officer

- 11.1 This report seeks Cabinet Member approval for the implementation of proposed highways improvements on Wightman Road, outlined in section 3 and detailed under 6.5. The total cost of implementing the proposals is estimated to cost £2k and will be funded through the council revenue budget.

12 Comments of the Head of Legal Services and Governance

- 12.1 Before establishing, altering or removing a crossing a local traffic authority shall consult the chief officer of police about their proposal to do so and shall give public notice of that proposal.
- 12.2 It shall be the duty of a local traffic authority to execute any works (including the placing, erection, maintenance, alteration and removal of marks and traffic signs) required in connection with the establishment, alteration or removal of crossings in accordance with regulations having effect under section 25 of the RTRA 1984, or in connection with the indication of crossings in accordance with such regulations.
- 12.3 Section 66 of the Highways Act permits highway authorities to provide objects or structures on a highway for the purposes of safeguarding persons using the highway.
- 12.4 The Highways Act 1980 permits local authorities to place objects or structures on a highway for the purposes of providing a service for the benefit of the public or a section of the public.
- 12.5 It is the view of legal services that what is being proposed and recommended within this report is in accordance with the law, as set out in this section.

13 Equalities Comments

- 13.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 13.2 The consultation documents were distributed to all households / businesses within the agreed consultation area to ensure that all stakeholders were made aware of the council's proposals.
- 13.3 The implementation of the proposals will improve visibility for vehicles existing sides roads onto Wightman Road making it safer for all road users.

14 Use of Appendices

- Appendix A – Statutory consultation document
- Appendix B – Consultation area
- Appendix C - Legal Notice