

## **Proposed Low Traffic Neighbourhood in East Sheen Consultation Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why is the Council proposing to introduce further changes in the area?**

*The existing experimental restrictions were introduced as an interim measure in response to residents concerns in the roads directly affected. The Council is now looking to introduce more permanent long term area wide arrangements to address rat-running traffic in the wider area.*

### **What if residents would like the removal of all measures in the area?**

*If residents do not support the introduction measures to support a low traffic neighbourhood, then this will direct them to a question that allows them to state if they would like either some more limited or no measures introduced. An issue with the removal of all options is that it will leave a number of roads back to the position of having levels of through traffic above acceptable traffic levels as per the Council's Traffic Management Policy that state intervention is desirable. Hence we have sought to put forward options that seek to work for all roads in the area.*

### **What work has been carried out to look at the impact of the current experimental measures on e.g. Palmerston / Sheen Gate Gardens etc – in particular on the neighbouring roads?**

*Automatic Traffic Surveys and site visits by officers have been undertaken across the wider East Sheen (Parkside) area over several months. However, it is recognised that the long-term closure of Hammersmith Bridge (April 2019) has changed traffic volumes/driver routes since experimental traffic measures were first introduced in October 2018 and that a fresh approach towards a more holistic set of measures was desirable.*

### **What work has been done to assess the impact of the proposals on air pollution?**

*As the measures are experimental, no work has been done to date on assessing air pollution. The key to monitoring air quality is having a suitable baseline. We do not have that. Given that current traffic in the area has altered due to the closure of Hammersmith Bridge, it would not be an accurate reflection.*

### **If any of the proposals are introduced, what will be done to monitor the speeds of vehicles travelling through the residential roads?**

*Automatic traffic surveys will be undertaken to record traffic volumes and speed. The Council will also be introducing a boroughwide 20mph speed limit later this year and this will apply in the East Sheen (Parkside) area apart from the A205 Upper Richmond Road West (South Circular) which forms part of the TfL Red Route Network.*

### **Why was there no previous consultation on the experimental traffic management measures before they were introduced?**

*Experimental traffic management restrictions are introduced to 'test' what actually happens following their introduction and provide flexibility for further amendments to be made if necessary. Representations are invited in the first 6 months of their introduction but there is no formal statutory requirement on consultation.*

**What is the Royal Parks Movement Strategy and what difference will that make?**

*Further information can be found on the Royal Parks website:*

*<https://www.royalparks.org.uk/managing-the-parks/park-strategies/the-royal-parks-transport-and-movement-strategy>*

*Whilst the strategy covers all Royal Parks not just Richmond Park, clearly a major source of through traffic in the area is to/from Richmond Park so any measures that can help reduce through traffic levels can make a positive difference.*

**Can Royal Parks-reduce the opening times / access to vehicles at Sheen Gate?**

*The opening/closing times of Richmond Park gates remains the responsibility of Royal Parks but discussions are ongoing on this and the possibility of vehicle restrictions through the Park.*

**Won't these proposals displace traffic to other equally unsuitable roads-how can those be mitigated?**

*The proposals are designed to reduce traffic volumes across the wider East Sheen (Parkside) Neighbourhood and are focussed on traffic reduction on unclassified roads.*

**What work is being done to work with sat nav providers e.g. Waze to dissuade them from encouraging 'rat run' routes?**

*Many smartphone applications base their 'realtime' directions based on the routes drivers actually take – the whole premise of these applications is to promote routes in terms of quickest time, irrespective of whether the route is appropriate and/or disbenefits local residents. A low traffic neighbourhood seeks to make these through journeys longer and less attractive thereby reducing overall traffic volumes through people taking alternative routes or switching to other modes of transport.*

**Why do this now and not wait until Hammersmith Bridge reopens?**

*It is expected that Hammersmith Bridge will remain closed for 3 years. The closure has exacerbated the amount of through traffic in the area and the proposed options are an attempt to address this in the East Sheen (Parkside) area.*

**What is being doing to encourage TfL to actively manage on-street parking and traffic signal timings on their Red Route network in response to the Hammersmith Bridge closure?**

*Complaints and suggestions made by residents regarding the operation of A205 Upper Richmond Road West (South Circular) have been shared with TfL. TfL remain the highway authority for the road and are best placed to consider/act on these suggestions. Officers are engaged with TfL to ensure that TfL actively consider what can be done to ease traffic conditions in the area following the closure of Hammersmith Bridge.*