

Battersea High Street, SW11

Consultation on proposed public realm improvements



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I am writing to seek your views on the council's proposals to improve the southern section of Battersea High Street [between its junctions with the A3205 Battersea Park Road and Simpson Street].

The current road layout has been in place since 1989 and is now in a poor condition with temporary patched repairs, damaged highway surfaces and a build-up of street clutter. Hence, it is proposed to make improvements to Battersea High Street with the intention of upgrading the look and feel of the street, enhancing its sense of place and supporting economic activity. Businesses on Battersea High Street have long campaigned for a re-design of the public realm to eliminate a number of current impediments to growth.

No changes are proposed in so far as motor traffic is concerned and the High Street would remain in use for local traffic and servicing. The scheme's transport aims would be to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, and to accommodate the essential parking and servicing needs of businesses, market traders and residents. It is anticipated that the old barrier preventing access to Battersea High Street from the north would be replaced by new bollards.

The key features of the proposed scheme are listed below and detailed in the drawing:

- Level highway surface with no or very low kerbs;
- A single southbound traffic lane would be paved in a different size/colour to the adjoining footways to delineate the vehicular route from the pedestrian environment;
- Informal pedestrian crossing areas would be paved in different colour to the adjoining footways and carriageway;
- Parking would be relocated from the carriageway onto a wider pedestrian space, retaining space for essential parking and servicing activity;
- More generally, the council would seek to reduce the amount of street furniture and the extent to which highway space is formally marked out for different uses in order to retain flexibility in the potential use of the space;
- Two utility cabinets housing the trader's electricity meters are in a poor condition and would be replaced; and
- The traffic barrier would be replaced within a more attractive setting with the intention of acting as a gateway to the High Street.

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Figure 1 - High Street looking north



Figure 2 - Proposed concept layout after the improvements



Figure 3 - Before improvements: Junction with Simpson Street



Figure 4 - After improvements: Junction with Simpson Street



Note: the drawings are indicative proposals and may require to be amended as a result of the consultation and detailed design processes.