

FAQs

What is proposed?

At present along Queenstown Road, we have installed temporary measures to enable greater social distancing and a wider choice of transport options whilst public transport use remains relatively low. We are currently developing proposals to adapt these temporary measures and make them permanent. We will invest in our public realm where it matters most, to enable safe local journeys, deliver healthy streets and improve our landscape. This follows our announcement of our intentions we published in 2020, which you can read [here](#).

Where is it proposed?

We are currently seeking your views on permanent changes along Queenstown Road, extending from Chelsea Bridge to Silverthorne Road, south of Battersea Park Road.

Why is it proposed?

We are developing proposals which will improve our public realm and enable inclusive access for those of us walking, cycling, travelling by wheelchair or mobility scooters.

Queenstown Road is a valuable connection in and out of our borough via Chelsea Bridge, and is well used by our residents and visitors. We recognise that the street is often congested and has a history of road traffic collisions. North of Battersea Park Road, our road users have experienced approximately 12 collisions each year, and sadly there has been one fatal collision every year within the last three years. We would like to reduce road danger here by better separating cycle traffic from cars and vans. Our intention is to improve safety for everyone and enable an increase in the number of trips made locally by walking, cycling, travelling by wheelchair or mobility scooters and other active modes, in line with Wandsworth's targets of 82% active travel by 2041.

Doing nothing will lead to increased growth in the number of car trips on our streets, contributing to more congestion, more air pollution and increased road danger. We would like to enable our residents and businesses to benefit from meaningful sustainable transport opportunities, to make short trips easier, cleaner and more convenient. Our emerging proposals will provide our residents with a wider choice in their transport options.

What will the proposals include?

We believe our emerging proposals should:

- Improve and enhance our public realm and make it easier for walking and using wheelchairs on our footways. We would do this by refurbishing footways and improving access at pedestrian crossings.
- Make it easier for pedestrians to cross the street, by reducing the space needed to cross or increasing the time available to cross the street.
- Create a high-quality, dedicated space for cycling befitting the road's role as one of the key cycling corridors in Wandsworth
- Resurface the carriageway where it is needed.
- Remove overnight parking to create space for other road users.
- Reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph.
- Incorporate landscaping and tree planting to make better use of our valuable public spaces

How does the scheme differ to the temporary measures already provided on Queenstown Road?

Temporary measures were put in place in late 2020 as part of our response to social distancing as a result of COVID-19. Interim measures were introduced to provide more space for cycling, walking and travelling by wheelchair or mobility scooters. This interim scheme was delivered at pace and helped to separate southbound cycle traffic from cars and vans, while making best use of our existing northbound bus lane for cycle traffic. The temporary changes were made via an Experimental Traffic Order (ETO) on a trial basis. We would like to evaluate this trial scheme with a view to making permanent changes to Queenstown Road.

How will the permanent scheme improve conditions for pedestrians?

Our emerging proposals seeks to improve and enhance our public realm and make it easier for walking and using wheelchairs on our footways, by refurbishing footways and improving access at pedestrian crossings. We would like to make it easier for pedestrians to cross the street, by reducing the space needed to cross the street or increasing the time available to cross.

Our approach will also treat cycles as vehicles, not pedestrians. We would like to separate cycle traffic from pedestrians more effectively, especially on the northbound approach to Chelsea Bridge. At certain locations, such as at bus stops, we would seek to accommodate space for passengers and enable cycling journeys, in line with the latest best practice across London.

How will the permanent scheme improve conditions for cycle traffic?

Almost 25% of all road collisions reported along this section of Queenstown Road, in the last three years, have led to injuries involving people cycling. Our emerging proposals seek to reduce road danger and make it easier for people to choose to cycle if they want to.

How will the permanent scheme improve conditions for bus passengers?

We are working with Transport for London to design a scheme which will maintain or improve bus journey time reliability. We would like to adopt a consistent approach to bus stop designs adjacent to cycle routes. At certain locations, we will be developing proposals aligning to latest practice across London, accommodating space for passengers while enabling adjacent cycling journeys.

Will the permanent scheme affect local businesses?

If you own or operate a local business on Queenstown Road, we would like to hear from you. We do not anticipate substantial changes to any local businesses. Similar schemes implemented elsewhere in our borough and in London have successfully increased footfall and local trips by cycling, which in turn has led to increases in local spend and positive impacts on local high streets and local businesses. Investing in our public realm and making our environment more attractive can boost footfall and subsequent trading.

Will the permanent scheme reduce the number of cars and vans using Queenstown Road?

The initial proposals for this section of Queenstown Road does not include any measures which will reduce capacity of the carriageway for vehicles. Proposals will include some narrowing of the carriageway for cars and vans to make space for other modes of transport including walking, cycling travelling by wheelchair or mobility scooters. Details of this are still being developed and our preferred proposals will be subject to future public consultation We believe that by installing protected space for walking, cycling or travelling by wheelchair or mobility scooters along Queenstown Road we will give our residents a greater choice for local journeys.

Will the permanent scheme lower vehicle speeds?

Queenstown Road is subject to a 30mph speed limit. As part of the overall scheme proposals, we intend to implement a new 20mph speed limit to reduce road danger. This is a follow-on measure, following the successful introduction of 20mph speed limits which are in place on all minor roads in the borough. Reducing speeds will make our streets safer and help improve air quality.

What about deliveries?

The scheme is expected to have a minimal impact on deliveries and other servicing vehicles.

What stage is the scheme currently in?

We are seeking your views at an early stage, to better understand your experiences of Queenstown Road and the temporary measures currently provided along the road. We are currently developing proposals for this scheme, and this involves listening to you to help inform proposals and design options, collect relevant data, and assess feasibility. Following initial feedback, we will continue to develop our designs with an aim of undertaking a formal consultation later this year.

What are the timescales for the scheme?

The timescales for the construction will be dependent on public consultation later in 2021. Once this stage has been completed the Council will regularly communicate expected timescales and milestones with you via the Council's website and social platforms (e.g. Twitter and Facebook).

What are public realm improvements?

Public realm improvements can include a wide variety of measures which seek to enhance the quality of our valuable public spaces. Public realm improvements can contribute to our commitments to improve air quality, health and wellbeing, reduce road danger, and enable inclusive access to public spaces. Measures can include footway improvements, pedestrian crossing improvements, street lighting, seating, public art, landscaping and tree planting.

How will you consider the feedback?

We are giving our residents and businesses a chance to comment on their current experiences of Queenstown Road to help inform our proposals in advance of future public consultation. All feedback received will be used to help inform how our scheme progresses and what our final proposals will look like. Feedback from people who live and work locally will be prioritised.

What does this early engagement involve?

This early engagement primarily involves an online survey and an opportunity for our residents and businesses to give us their thoughts on their experiences of living on or visiting Queenstown Road.

When will future public consultation take place?

Following initial feedback, we will continue to develop our designs with an aim of undertaking a formal consultation later this year, where you will have another opportunity to express your views on our proposals.