

Brent Active Travel Programme

Dollis Hill Area

Healthy Neighbourhood

COVID-19 has disrupted our daily travel habits. As lockdown restrictions are eased, we want to support and encourage people to adopt greener, healthier, more active forms of transport. Brent has seen some highest numbers of Covid cases and parts of our borough have poor air quality along with some long term public health issues. We have developed a plan to introduce short, medium and longer-term improvements in the borough that we hope will support residents make different travel choices and become more active. As part of the plan, the Council is working in partnership with Transport for London to deliver a series of rapid improvements to the transport system in the Brent. This includes the implementation of a series of Healthy (Low Traffic) Neighbourhoods around the borough.



What is a Healthy Neighbourhood?

A Healthy Neighbourhood is a low traffic neighbourhood introduced in residential areas, where non-local motor vehicle traffic is discouraged or removed. Road closures are placed at certain points within neighbourhoods to prevent non-local traffic from passing through the area. The main principle is that every resident can drive onto their street, get deliveries etc., but through traffic is prohibited.

Why do we need Healthy Neighbourhoods?

As lockdown restrictions are eased, it is expected that many people will be avoiding using public transport, which may lead to increased car use. This could in turn mean increased car use, which will lead more traffic congested streets, worse air quality, increased road danger and negative impacts on climate change. We have to take action at the neighbourhood level to prevent traffic from diverting onto local roads. We therefore need to encourage more people to walk and cycle as part of their daily routine and to protect residential areas from possible increased traffic.

What is happening in my area?

The plan overleaf shows where road closures are proposed in your area. As shown on the photo each closure will have planters placed in the road with associated signage. A lockable drop down bollard will allow emergency access and service vehicles will be able to pass through the closures and some new restrictions will be required to allow vehicles to turn. The closures will be in the following locations:

1. Oxgate Gardens
2. Dollis Hill Avenue
3. Gladstone Park Gardens

The Council looked at levels of congestion, air quality, health, road safety and factors such as access to green space and walking and cycling accessibility in deciding where to implement Healthy Neighbourhoods. A new school street is also being introduced outside the entrance to Our Lady of Grace Infants School on Dollis Hill Avenue, which will operate term time from September 2020, Mon-Fri 8.15-9.15 am and 2.30-4.00 pm.

Where can I get further information?

More information on our Active Travel programme is provided on the Council's website:
<https://www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/coronavirus/changes-to-council-services/transport-and-streets/>

How can I comment on these proposals?

Because of the urgency required in dealing with the Covid pandemic, Government has asked councils to introduce measures as soon as possible. The Healthy Neighbourhood will be introduced as a temporary scheme using an experimental traffic order.

This means that public comments are made during the experimental period that lasts from between 6 and 18 months. Taking all comments into account a decision will then be made to make schemes permanent with or without amendment, or to remove schemes. Following the 6 month consultation period, a decision report will be prepared and a decision made on whether to extend the period or make the scheme permanent with or without amendments.

We would welcome your comments on how the scheme is operating and what we can improve. The website link below provides a place where you can provide your comments and suggestions:
<https://consultation.brent.gov.uk/>

What happens next?

We expect the works to commence and be completed in late September 2020. We will assess how the scheme is functioning over this period. A letter will be sent after six months of operation informing you of the decision whether to extend the experimental period or any future plans to amend the scheme.

Yours Sincerely

Sandor Fazekas - Project Development Manager
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