

QUIETWAY 6 SCHEME 35 CAPEL ROAD: New separated cycle lane on Capel Road and improved crossing locations

Newham Council has been working with Transport for London (TfL) to create Cycling Route Quietway 6 (Aldgate to Hainault) which runs east-west through Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and the northern part of Newham.

As part of the scheme, known as '35 Capel Road', the Council completed improvements to the junction of Woodford Road / Capel Road in August 2017.

In 2019, the Council will create a new separated cycle lane on Capel Road, between the junction of Woodford Road and Chestnut Avenue. This will provide a safer route for cyclists, as this can be a busy route for cars and other vehicles.

Following feedback from local residents and schools, the Council will also be widening sections of the pavement and creating new crossings to improve access to Wanstead Flats.

Previous consultation on '35 Capel Road'

Public consultation on the entire scheme took place in July 2015 and preliminary designs were prepared which took account of the comments received during the consultation. A localised consultation on the preliminary designs took place in March 2016. At that time, it was decided to pursue an option of a cycle track which used Wanstead Flats instead of the carriageway on Capel Road. Hence only the works at the Junction of Woodford Road/Capel Road have been completed so far (undertaken between March 2017 and August 2017).

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to secure the necessary agreements for the cycle track to be implemented on Wanstead Flats and we will therefore revert to the separated cycle track proposal on the carriageway.

Improvements to the proposed scheme

Since the implementation of part of the scheme at the Woodford Road/Capel Road junction in August 2017, some other issues have been raised by local residents and local schools in the area.

- Anti-social behaviour (ASB) at the junction of Capel Road and Chestnut Avenue
- Extremely dangerous driving (vehicles doing 'doughnuts' in the large junction area and speeding) at the Capel Road junction with Chestnut Avenue
- Requests for a pedestrian island at the Chestnut Avenue junction
- A desire for a formal pedestrian crossing linking to Wanstead Flats to be provided opposite the Chestnut Avenue nursery

As the initial proposal for the on-carriageway separated cycle route addresses these issues, we consider it appropriate to now proceed with implementing the original scheme. The layout is shown on the Drawing No: QWAH-35EXT-001. Please note that the Council has made some changes to the scheme consulted in March 2016, in response to the feedback received from local residents in August 2017.

The key changes to improve the scheme are listed below:

- The creation of a new formal crossing point for people cycling and walking to access Wanstead Flats, between Chestnut Avenue and Cranmer Road, aligned with the existing access point(s) to the bridleway running parallel to Capel Road. This will include two islands that will also accommodate public cycle stands and lockable residential cycle hangers.

- Replace the existing concrete humps to asphalted road humps. In the second localised consultation, 10 out of 60 responses objected to replacing the humps; however these humps do not to comply with The Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999 clause 4.1.c, which results in claims being made against the Council for vehicle damage. As a result, the Council will be required to replace these at its own cost as they fail to meet the criteria.
In addition, the rest of the concrete road humps along Capel Road will also be replaced with asphalted sinusoidal humps at the same time subject to the funding availability from TfL.
- As a result of these proposals there will be some minor alterations to the current parking arrangement on the North side of Capel Road. Since the introduction of Residential Parking Zone, the parking pressure has been reduced and a parking stress survey was carried out in early August 2018 which has demonstrated that the residents will still have adequate parking provision after these alterations have been completed.
- Please note the narrowing of the carriageway was included in the previous public consultation. At the time of the previous consultation, 7 out of 60 responses objected to the narrowing of the carriageway. However, narrowing of the carriageway is expected to help address the noted issues above regarding vehicle speeds between the existing humps.

If you have any further query, please email us at quietways@newham.gov.uk.