

Item No. 14.	Classification: Open	Date: 30 January 2013	Meeting Name: Dulwich Community Council
Report title:		Paxton Green Roundabout Improvements	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		College Ward	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Community Council; note and comment on:
 - Paxton Green roundabout improvements proposal, as shown in Appendix A
 - Summary of representations received during public consultation, as shown in Appendix B
 - Revised proposal that takes into consideration representation received during the consultation process, as shown in Appendix D

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In accordance with Part 3H of the Southwark Constitution, community councils are to be consulted on the detail of strategic traffic schemes.
3. The community council is now being given opportunity to make final representation to the Cabinet Member for transport, environment and recycling, as part of the consultation process.
4. The objectives of the scheme are to:
 - improve safety conditions for pupils accessing bus stop at the roundabout
 - review and improve existing pedestrian crossing facilities on all arms of the roundabout
 - improve general safety at the roundabout and in the wider area, making it easier for pedestrians to cross the road, as well as slowing traffic down.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The Paxton Green roundabout improvements scheme was originally identified as part of measures outlined in the South Dulwich school travel plan (STP) proposals.
6. As part of the South Dulwich STP programme, a number of minor measures to improve access and safety for pupils crossing the road were implemented in 2011/12 financial year. The Paxton Green roundabout scheme, being more substantial in nature, is intended to be implemented in the 2013/14 financial year, subject to approval.

7. Prior to considering the proposals the views of residents were sought in a 'pre-consultation' on some of the traffic issues/problems that they felt needed to be addressed in the area. A report on the outcome of this initial public consultation can be found in Appendix C.
8. Public consultation, initially intended from November – December 2012, was extended to 25 January 2013 to allow a 'drop-in' session to be held, as requested by ward councillors given the strength of feeling in the area about the scheme.
9. Letters were sent to all residents previously consulted, inviting them to the open day even on Wednesday 16 January at Paxton Green Health Centre. In total 47 people attended the open day event.
10. Summary of the public consultation responses is shown in Appendix B. As can be seen, whilst there is an overall balance between residents in favour and against the proposals in general, there is clear support for all the individual elements of the scheme **except** for the proposal to remove the existing northbound bus stop on the roundabout itself and replace it with two new stops, one immediately before the junction on Dulwich Wood Park and one immediately after the junction on South Croxted Road, as well as the proposal to remove the sub-standard section of southbound cycle lane on Dulwich Wood Park (which is only required to create space for the proposed bus stop).
11. Given the strength of feeling in the public consultation, officers have developed a revised proposal which avoids the need to move the bus stops, and therefore also retains the cycle lane. Officers believe that this revised scheme will still deliver most of the objectives of the original scheme and that therefore this is an acceptable balance between the objectives of the scheme, the overall Transport Plan objectives, and the opinion of local people. This revised scheme is shown in Appendix D.

Recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment and Recycling

12. On the basis of the results of the public consultation the cabinet member will be recommended to:
 - Note representations received during public consultation process, as shown in Appendix B
 - Note feedback from community council
 - Approve a revised scheme which takes into consideration responses from the consultation, in particular retention of the existing Bus Stop and cycle lane.

The revised scheme proposals are shown in Appendix D.

Policy implications

13. The recommendations contained within this report are consistent with the policies of the Transport Plan 2011, particularly:

Policy 1.1 – pursue overall traffic reduction

Policy 2.3 – promote and encourage sustainable travel choices in the borough

Policy 4.2 – create places that people can enjoy

Policy 5.1 - Improve safety on our roads and to help make all modes of transport safer.

Community impact statement

14. The implementation of any transport project creates a range of community impacts. All transport schemes aim to improve the safety and security of vulnerable groups and support economic development by improving the overall transport system and access to it. This proposal focuses in particular on improving pedestrian facilities and road safety which will particularly benefit the young, elderly and other vulnerable road users.

Resource implications

15. This report is for the purposes of consultation only and there are no resource implications associated with it.
16. It is, however, noted that the project itself is funded by Transport for London via the Local Implementation Plan programme for strategic transport projects.

Consultation

17. Ward members were consulted prior to consultation process.
18. Informal public consultation was carried out November 2012 to 25 January 2013.
19. An open day event was held on Wednesday 16 January at Paxton Green Health Centre.
20. Out of the 2250 consultation leaflets delivered, a total of 216 responses were received during the consultation period, equating to **9.6%** response rate. A summary of the responses is contained at Appendix B. Overall support for the scheme is balanced but there is clear support in favour of all elements of the scheme except the moving of the bus stops and removal of cycle lane.
21. Two responses to the consultation have been received from local amenity groups, namely Crystal Palace Community Association and Gipsy Hill Residents' Association. Both express objection to the scheme although support various elements.
22. A petition signed by 117 residents was received during the consultation period stating 'I object to the proposed creation of the new northbound bus stop on Dulwich Wood Park'. A second petition was received with 186 signatures stating 'I object to the proposed creation of the new northbound bus stops on South Croxted Road and on Dulwich Wood Park'.
23. A deputation in relation to the proposal will be presented by some residents at the community council meeting. This report is considered elsewhere on the agenda.
24. This report provides an opportunity for final comment to be made by the community council prior to a non-key decision scheduled to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Recycling in February 2013.

25. If approved for implementation the final design will be subject to detailed design, strategic road network approval, and safety audit. Some features of the proposals will be subject to statutory consultation required in the making of any permanent Traffic Management Orders.

Reasons for urgency

26. Due to the financial constraints on timing as set out by TfL, a decision on whether to implement the scheme by the cabinet member is required before the end of the financial year (31 March 2013). Constitution requires that the community council is formally consulted before the cabinet member can approve the scheme for implementation. This community council is the last meeting before the end of the financial year.

Reasons for lateness

27. Given the strength of feeling in the local community generated by the proposals, ward councillors requested an extension to the public consultation period to 25 January 2013, and also for officers to arrange a ‘drop-in’ event which took place on 16 January 2013. Officers needed to wait for the closing date before the report can be finalised.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Transport Plan 2011	Online: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200107/transport_policy/1947/southwark_transport_plan_2011	Matthew Hill, Public Realm Programme Manager 020 7525 3541

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Paxton Green Roundabout Consultation Form
Appendix B	Paxton Green Roundabout Consultation Review
Appendix C	Paxton Green Roundabout Consultation Report
Appendix D	Paxton Green Roundabout Consultation Revised Design

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Des Waters, Head of Public Realm	
Report Author	Qassim Kazaz, Principal Project Manager - Transport	
Version	Final	
Dated	24 January 2013	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	28 January 2013	