

London Borough of Southwark



Alice Street and Green Walk Streetscape Improvement Scheme

Public Consultation Summary

August 2013

Alice Street and Green Walk

Streetscape Improvement Scheme

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 This document report has been produced by the London Borough of Southwark Public Realm Projects Group, to provide a summary of the consultation exercise for a streetscape improvement scheme in Alice Street and Green Walk. The measures are being drafted by the Public Realm Projects Team, with the project manager for this scheme being Chris Mascord (Senior Engineer).

1.1.2 The area under consideration is located within the SE1 district of Southwark in the north of the borough. See figure 1 below.

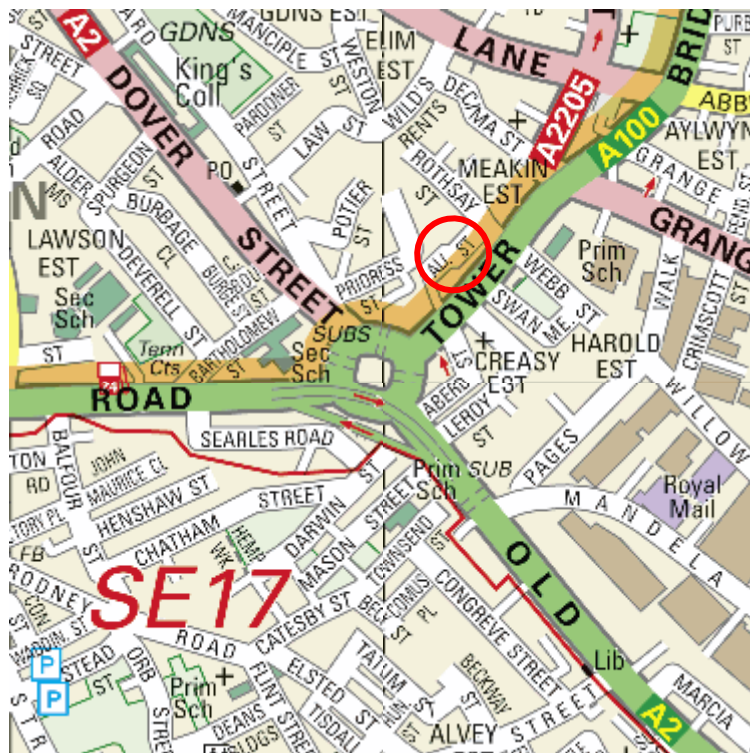


Figure 1: Location of proposed scheme

1.2 Project and Objectives

1.2.1 The measures proposed in this consultation are part of the Council's ongoing commitment to make Southwark's streets safer and more accessible for all. The proposed measures will assist to enhance the environment for all road users, reducing traffic speeds and improving pedestrian safety and accessibility.

1.2.2 It is proposed that the following measures be implemented to improve the streetscape:

- New footway surfacing on Alice Street and Green Walk to match Rothsay Street.
- Eastern footway of Alice Street (adjacent to new development) to be rebuilt to provide a more even surface.
- Footway widening with tree planning at end of parking bays to improve the visual quality of the streetscape.
- Majority of existing resident / pay and display parking to bay to remain, with an additional resident parking bay created on the eastern side of Alice Street.
- New carriageway raised table at junction of Green Walk and Alice Street to improve pedestrian accessibility and reduce traffic speeds.
- Removal of redundant street clutter.
- Carriageway to be resurfaced.

See Appendix A for drawing of proposed scheme

1.3 Consultation Procedure

- 1.3.1 The views of the local community and those of statutory consultees have been sought, prior to the development of measures to a detailed design stage. Active community participation was encouraged through the use of a consultation document and questionnaire (see Appendix B – Consultation Documents).
- 1.3.2 The consultation document included a covering letter describing the proposals and a request for comments (including information to assist in translation and large print versions of the consultation document), preliminary design drawings (A3 size) and a questionnaire/comment form that could be sent to the Public Realm Projects Group with a pre-paid address reply.
- 1.3.3 The consultation document was delivered to a geographical area centred on Alice Street and Green Walk using strategic roads and pedestrian desire lines as defined cut off points (See Appendix C – Location Plan and Extents of Consultation).
- 1.3.4 The distribution area was large enough to gain views from the wider community that may be considered to be affected by the proposed measures. A mailing list was established for the area by way of the Council's GIS database. In addition, the consultation documents and plans were supplied to the Council's established list of statutory consultees including London Buses, cycle groups and the Metropolitan Police. Please see Appendix D of list of addresses within the distribution area.
- 1.3.5 The consultation documents were delivered by Royal Mail to 217 addresses detailed within the distribution list. The documents were delivered on the 18th July 2013, with a return deadline of the 16th August 2013, allowing four weeks for the consultation period.

2.0 Consultation Responses

2.1 Response Rate and Distribution

2.1.1 A total of 25 responses (22 questionnaires and 3 emails) were received during the consultation period, equating to a 11.5% response rate.

2.1.3 One questionnaire was received from a statutory consultee.

2.2 Questionnaire Analysis

2.2.1 The questionnaire element of the consultation document contained the following key questions and associated tick box options:

Q1. Are you a resident or business?

Q2. Do you support the proposals?

2.2.2 The following is a summary of replies received:

Question 1 - Are you a resident or business?

	Resident	Business
Replies	25	0
Total	100%	0%

Table 1: Returned questionnaire results for question 1

2.2.3 Table 1 indicates that all responses received during the consultation periods were from residents.

Question 2 – Do you support the proposals?

	Support	Opposed	No Opinion
Replies	25	0	0
Total	100%	0%	0%

Table 2: Returned questionnaire results for question 2

2.2.4 Table 2 illustrates that 100% of replies received throughout the consultation periods were in support of the proposed measures.

2.3 Additional Comments

2.3.1 The questionnaire element of the consultation document invited consultees to attach any additional comments they may have on the proposals when returning the reply-paid questionnaire.

2.3.2 All respondents (100%) indicated support for the proposed measures, indicating that the measures were very welcome to enhance the street and the environment, as well as improving pedestrian accessibility.

2.3.3 Many respondents expressed concern at the existing state of the eastern footway of Alice Street, highlighting that the footway is inaccessible for wheelchair users and of poor quality.*

* In response, as part of the scheme, this footway will be reconstructed to provide a more level surface, to improve accessibility for pedestrians.

2.3.4 Numerous local residents expressed concern about the amount of litter in the street due to the volume of rubbish bags and frequency of collection by the council, resulting in an unsightly mess.*

* In response, the public realm projects team will pass on these concerns to the street cleansing and waste department to ensure they are aware of the issues.

2.3.5 A number of requests were made for similar improvement works to take place on Tower Bridge Road and junction with Green Walk. *

* In response, Tower Bridge Road and adjacent junction headways are under the remit to Transport for London (TfL red route) and not the council. TfL is the highway authority for that section of highway and the council is not permitted to undertake highway improvement works.

2.3.6 Many respondents indicated that more resident parking was needed in the area to cater for demand. A number requested that the tree planting areas be dropped and converted to parking spaces. *

* In response, the scheme is proposing to increase the amount of parking available to residents by creating a net gain of two additional resident parking spaces in the eastern side of Alice Street. The removal of the proposed tree and street greening for parking spaces will not be considered. *

2.3.7 A request was made for further improvements in Green Walk (tree planting and footway buildouts). *

* In response, there is not enough funding to undertake additional works other than what is proposed. If there is a surplus of funding left at the completion of

the proposed elements of the scheme, then additional works could potentially take place.

- 2.3.7 A number of requests were made to not proceed with three planting or greening areas, as they will attract dog mess and litter.*

*In response, the proposed street tree planting is an integral part of the streetscape and visual amenity improvements for Alice Street. The local streets are regularly inspected by the street cleansing team and there have been no reports of issues associated with similar tree pit facilities in neighbouring Rothsay Street.

- 2.3.8 A request was made for a disabled bay in Alice Street or Green Walk.*

*In response, the request for a disabled bay has been forwarded to Network Development for investigation.

- 2.3.9 A request was made to permanently remove the bollards along the southern side of Green Walk as they are unsightly and narrow the footway.*

* In response, replacement bollards are proposed as stakeholders at the pre-consultation meeting indicated that there would be a problem with footway parking if there was no physical deterrent along the southern side of Green Walk. As a result, requests were made for them to be replaced with more aesthetically pleasing bollards. However, it is noted that they add to streetsclutter and expense of the scheme, as well as limiting the available width of the footway for pedestrians. The installation of the bollards should be reviewed post consultation with ward members.

- 2.3.10 A number of requests were made by residents to pave the footways of Alice Street and Green Walk in blocks (instead of using Mastic Asphalt).

* In response, the budget does not allow for the implementation of stone paving or even concrete slabs. This is due to the thick concrete layers in the existing footways (particularly on the western side of Alice Street) that would be required to be broken out and removed if a slab surface treatment was installed. The breakout would be expensive, time consuming and very noisy.

- 2.3.11 A number of requests were made for the proposed parking bay on the eastern side of Alice Street to accommodate a loading facility.*

* In response, an application has been made by the resident at no. 11 Alice Street for a disabled bay facility. This request has been assessed and duly granted. Therefore there bay on the eastern side of Alice Street will accommodate this facility, leaving no room for a loading bay. It is noted that there are lengths of double yellow line in both Alice Street and Green Walk that allows for kerbside loading.

- 2.3.10 10% respondents did not submit a further comment.

2.4 Levels of Consensus

2.4.1 The following majority levels of agreement have been given in relation to the questions contained within the consultation document:

- 100% of consultees support the streetscape improvement measures for Alice Street and Green Walk.

2.5 Statutory Consultee Replies

2.5.1 No objections were received from statutory consultees.

2.5.2 No objections were received from Ward Members throughout the consultation period.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 Due to the unanimous support for the scheme from local residents and Southwark's ongoing commitment to improving the environment of local streets in the borough, it is recommended that the scheme is progressed to implementation.

Appendices

Appendix A:	Initial Scheme Proposals
Appendix B:	Consultation Documents
Appendix C:	Location Plan and Extents of Consultation
Appendix D:	List of Addresses within the Distribution Area