

Date: 5th May 2020
Our reference: Covid-19 Safe Travel in Camden/Kilburn High Rd
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Responding to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

New Coronavirus (COVID-19) safety measures on Kilburn High Road

Dear Resident / Business / Local group,

Summary

- **Camden Council is making changes to the pavement on the east side of Kilburn High Road to make it easier for you to keep 2m apart from other people in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)**
- **Work will be completed by the 16th May**
- **You can share your comments on these changes via safetravel@Camden.gov.uk**
- **You can find out more about these changes on our website <https://www.camden.gov.uk/making-travel-safer-in-camden>.**

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created new road safety challenges in Camden that the council is taking seriously. We want to make it easier and safer for people to walk and cycle locally, shop on their local high street, reach their local green spaces, schools and NHS sites, all while maintaining physical distancing. We are also looking to tackle future challenges caused by a change in the way that people travel once lockdown restrictions are eased. This includes a predicted rise in walking, cycling and car use with people less likely to choose public transport.

To respond to these challenges quickly we are making a series of safety-based changes to streets in Camden. Included in this letter is:

- Detail on the changes being made in your area
- A drawing showing the changes being made
- A drawing showing who we have notified
- Information on how to find out more

How are we responding to Coronavirus (COVID-19) safety issues?

We have identified a number of locations across the borough to begin to tackle the safety issues, including that proposed in your area. These initial locations have been chosen as they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- New safety issues involving physical distancing, walking or cycling have been highlighted to us as a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- Before the pandemic there had already been some local community engagement from existing projects which highlighted issues which we are looking to address
- They are areas where we can make it easier and safer for people maintaining physical distancing while walking and cycling locally, to shop, reach their local green spaces, schools and NHS sites

These safety measures include looking at widening pavements and reducing through traffic on residential streets. This will make it easier for people to access amenities and to use local roads to journey to key destinations or simply for exercise while staying 2m apart.

What is the challenge on Kilburn High Road?

Overall the number of vehicles using our roads is down but speeding has increased as a minority of irresponsible drivers take advantage of quieter roads. In London some average speeds are being recorded at 37mph in 20mph roads. The Metropolitan Police traffic team has been widely reported in the media recently, sharing that the number of speeding drivers recorded has risen by nearly 8-fold compared with the same period last year.

Once the lockdown is eased the predicted rise in walking, cycling and car use will also mean a change in the way people travel in the area with extra pressure on streets. We are aware that physical distancing requirements have meant that some areas of pavement are now too narrow for pedestrians to use safely.

We already know from previous local engagement that there are strong local priorities around improving safety, reducing street clutter and improving the local air quality on Kilburn High Road. As a major town centre we know that the pavements are very congested, making physical distancing difficult. We have been liaising with Brent Council (who have responsibility for the western side of the road) as we have both received concerns via local groups including the West Hampstead and Amenity Transport Group and Kilburn Life, alongside residents calling for changes to be made to address the narrow pavements.

Brent Council has predicted that as the lockdown begins to ease, the side of Kilburn High Road that belongs to them will be less heavily congested due to the lower number of supermarkets along that side of the road. In line with our partners and Brent Council, we would therefore encourage those not using the supermarkets to use the western side of Kilburn High Road. The situation and measures will continue to be monitored.

By working together we aim to increase safe access to retailers while also ensuring that, in particular, emergency vehicles are able to pass along the road easily at this time. Brent is assessing all town centres, including Kilburn, as part of a wider strategic plan to prioritise them in line with the difficulties they may be experiencing at this time.

In order to respond to the challenge of narrow pavements in this location we are going to be temporarily widening sections on the eastern side, making it easier for people to maintain a physical distance while shopping, queuing or moving through this area.

Brent Council will be investigating possible changes on the western side as part of a wider programme of installations across all town centres in Brent.

What will the work involve?

The temporary changes we will be making on Kilburn High Road are as follows:

- Widening the pavement on the eastern side between Willesden Lane and Belsize Road using temporary barriers to protect pedestrians from vehicles
- Where possible increasing the total width of pavement to 5.8m to allow people to pass each other and allow queuing. Where queuing is not taking place we are aiming for a minimum width of 3.2m where possible.
- This will not be noisy work and will be completed by the 16th May.

You can see a drawing of what these changes will look like overleaf.

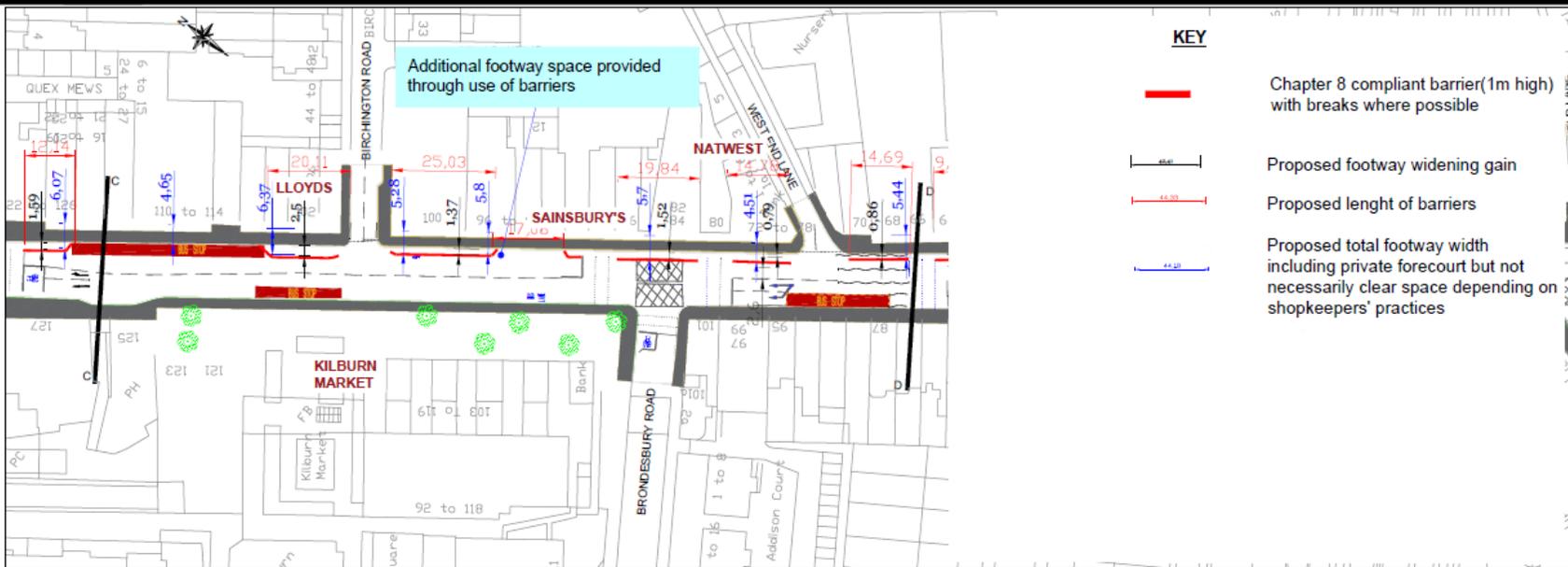
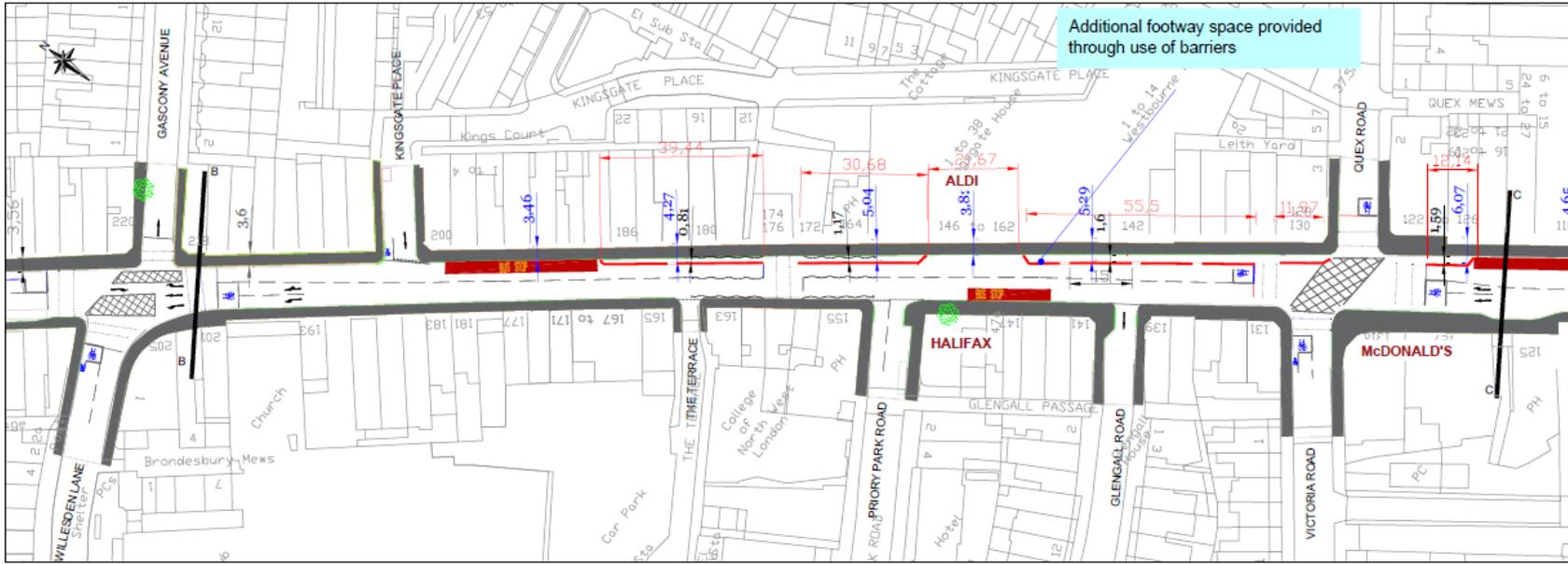
How can you give your views?

We know that there is an immediate need for these safety improvements in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) so we are making these changes as quickly as possible. If you have any concerns or comments on the changes you can get in touch via the details below.

How can you find out more?

More information on these schemes will be added to our website shortly <https://www.camden.gov.uk/making-travel-safer-in-camden> . In the meantime if you have any further questions or comments on the measures please don't hesitate to get in touch via safetravel@Camden.gov.uk

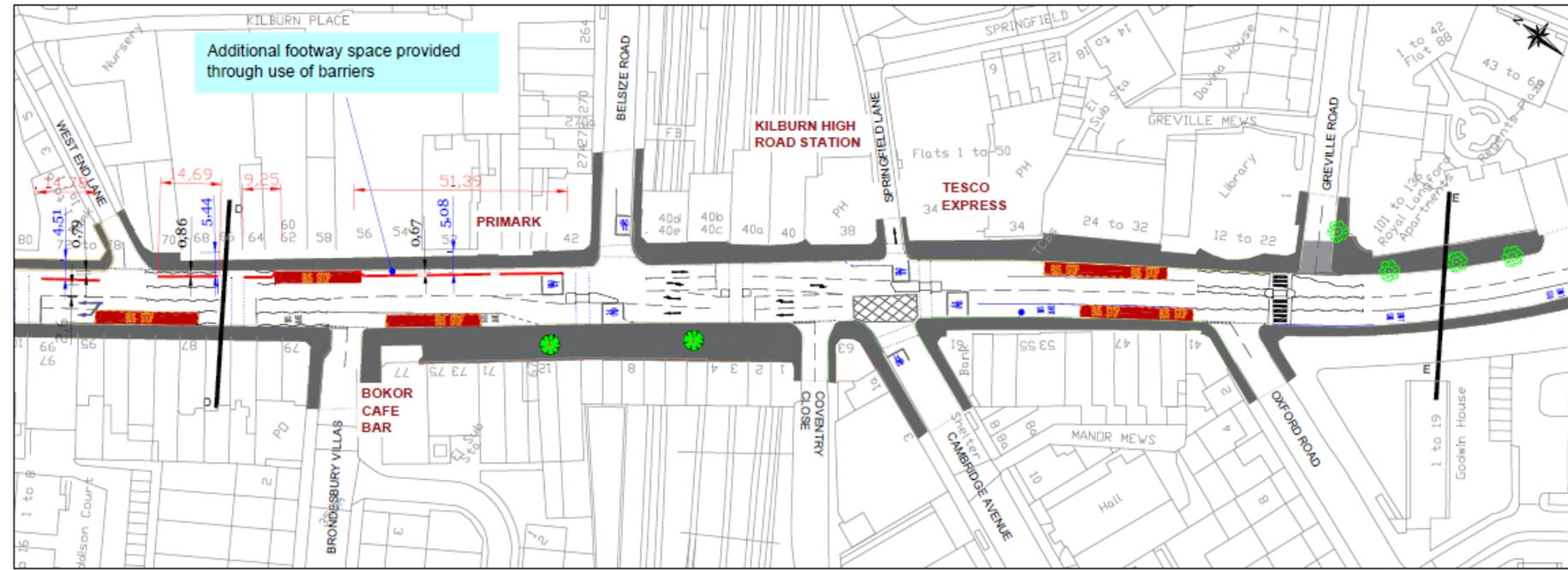
KILBURN HIGH ROAD SOCIAL DISTANCING (GASCOY AVENUE TO WEST END LANE)



KEY

- Chapter 8 compliant barrier (1m high) with breaks where possible
- Proposed footway widening gain
- Proposed length of barriers
- Proposed total footway width including private forecourt but not necessarily clear space depending on shopkeepers' practices

KILBURN HIGH ROAD SOCIAL DISTANCING (WEST END LANE TO GREVILLE PLACE)



KEY

- Chapter 8 compliant barrier (1m high) with breaks where possible
- Proposed footway widening gain
- Proposed length of barriers
- Proposed total footway width including private forecourt but not necessarily clear space depending on shopkeepers' practices