

LIVEABLE STREETS BOW

Liveable Streets is a multi-million-pound borough-wide street and public space improvement programme. It aims to improve the look and feel of public spaces in neighbourhoods across the borough and make it easier, safer, and more convenient to get around by foot and bike. Tower Hamlets would like to hear your views on the proposals for Bow.

We've listened to your concerns on issues including:

- The volume and speed of vehicles in residential areas
- Unfriendly pavements, public spaces and poor crossings for pedestrians
- Hostile environments for cyclists, particularly for children

This booklet contains our proposals to help tackle these problems. Let us know what you think before midnight on **Wednesday 29 July 2020**.

Coronavirus: Please refer to page 4 for details on our response to the pandemic.



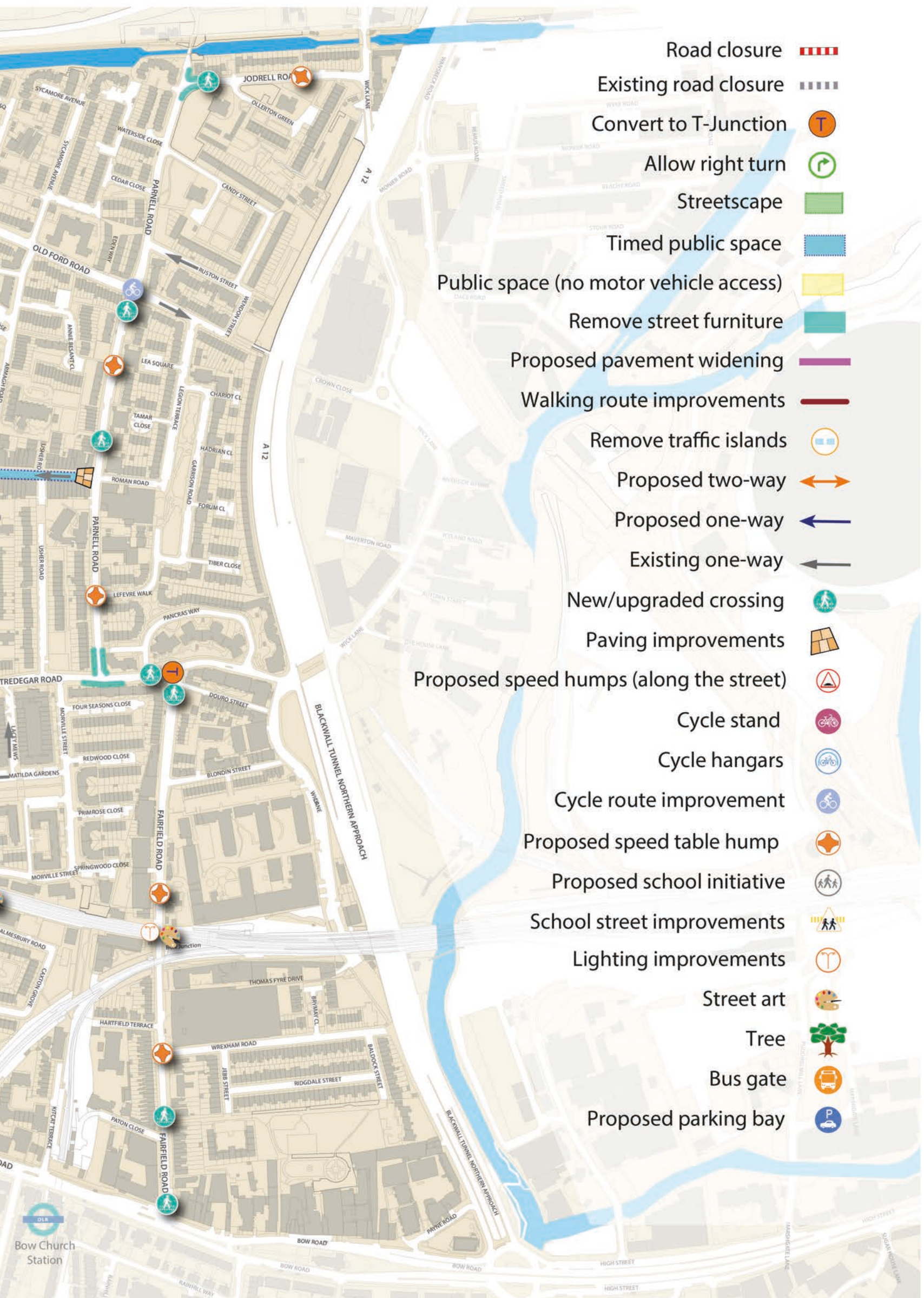
Old Ford Road Visualisation

THE PROPOSALS



Schools:

- 1 Olga Primary School
- 2 Chisenhale Primary School
- 3 Old Ford Primary School
- 4 Malmesbury Primary School
- 5 Cet Primary School
- 6 Central Foundation Girls School
- 7 Central Foundation Sixth Form
- 8 Phoenix Primary and Secondary School



Our response to Coronavirus

The council is working with its partners across Tower Hamlets to help tackle the spread of the virus and to make sure that residents, particularly those most vulnerable, are given all the support they need. Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus for information and advice.

While our frontline resources are focused on the response to the virus, work on other council programmes is continuing. The majority of our staff are working remotely, including the Liveable Streets team. Social distancing measures will mean we have to change the way we engage with residents but we are working on new ways to do this remotely so that you can continue to shape the positive changes happening in your area.

Coronavirus has given a new urgency to the question of how we share our public spaces and how we can champion walking, cycling and the safe use of public transport. For these reasons, there has never been a more important time to move forward with this project.

What's happened so far?

During the early engagement period, from April to May 2019, you gave your feedback through an online survey, interactive map and drop-in sessions. More than 1,000 comments and ideas were generated from across the interactive map and survey. Over 70% of the survey responses came from the residents of Bow.

We held co-design workshops with more than 140 residents, business representatives and local traders in attendance in November 2019 and February 2020, where the project team, local businesses and residents worked together to develop these proposals.

What is being proposed?

Seven schemes have been developed to improve walking and cycling, create better public spaces, discourage through-traffic and improve air quality.

We are proposing traffic changes and calming measures to make local streets safer for everyone. Pedestrian improvements, better street lighting, tree planting and cycling infrastructure are also considered. The map on pages 2-3 shows an overview of the project area and proposals.

Why are these proposals important?

Every day there are over 33,000 journeys within the Bow area. Of these, 49% are vehicles travelling through the area and not stopping. This means over 16,000 journeys are from non-residents of the local area and these vehicles are contributing to the already unacceptable levels of air pollution on your streets, outside your schools and around your local shops.

The Liveable Streets proposals will help improve road safety, public spaces, air quality and give the streets back to the residents. However to achieve this some local residents who want to drive may have to travel longer distances.

Bow Trial

The 2019 one-week trial in Bow ended on the first day due to concerns raised by some members of the Bow community as well as traffic routing complications.

A positive outcome of the trial was higher levels of visibility and engagement in the Bow Liveable Streets area and the recognition of the importance of improving road safety, the environment and air quality. This outcome was observed through high attendance at co-design workshops. We are confident the proposals outlined in this document reflect the feedback from across the Bow community.

SCHEME 1 ROMAN ROAD JUNCTION

You told us the junction of Roman Road and St Stephen's Road is noisy, polluted and congested. Survey results also showed Roman Road is used by drivers who are cutting through Bow; they are not stopping and spending time in the area.

PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

Did you know pedestrians cross over the Roman Road/St Stephen's Road junction over 5,600 times every day? Most of those journeys are heading to and from the market section of Roman Road. On market days this number grows to over 10,000!

We want to create a safer and more pleasant environment for pedestrians crossing at the St Stephen's Road/Roman Road junction.

We can transform the public space around the junction by widening pavements, planting trees, removing cluttered guardrails, providing more cycle parking, seating and creating more waiting space at bus stops.

BUS GATEWAY

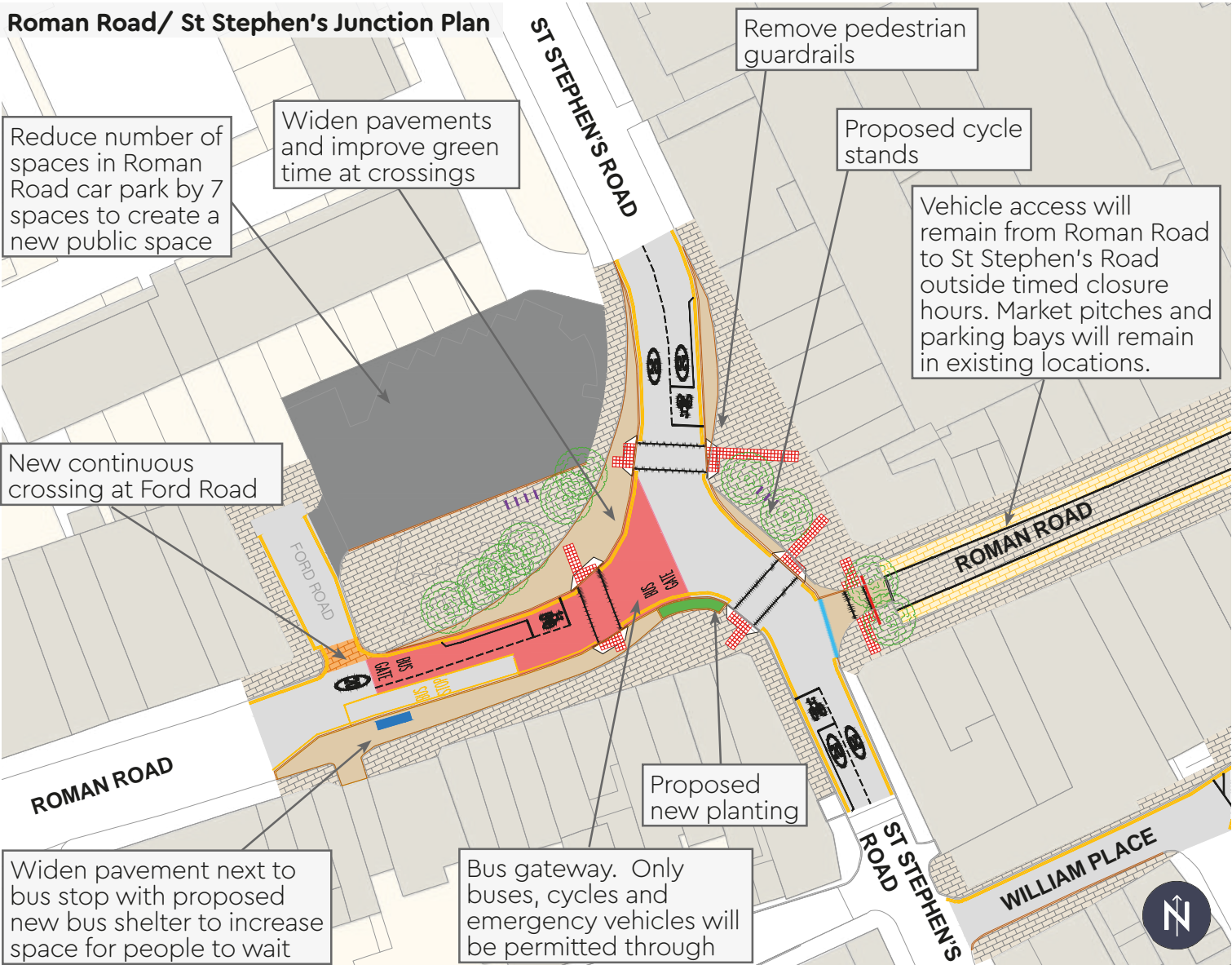
To create a better junction and help prevent vehicles travelling through your neighbourhood each day, we are proposing a bus gateway on Roman Road between Ford Road and St Stephen's Road. This means only buses and cyclists will be allowed to travel through this part of the road. Preventing other vehicles also reduces additional noise, road danger and anti-social behaviour, making your streets feel safer for walking and cycling.

We are consulting on different options for how this bus gateway could operate:

- 24 hours a day, Monday to Sunday
- Between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday
- From 7am to 10am, and 2.30pm to 7pm, Monday to Friday

ROMAN ROAD CAR PARK

To further enhance the public space, an upgrade to the layout of the Roman Road carpark is also proposed. The new layout reduces the total capacity by 7 spaces. An assessment of use, shows even at the busiest times only 49% of the car park spaces are used. We think this space could be better used to enhance the town centre environment.



ROMAN ROAD - WEST SECTION

The aim for Roman Road, between St Stephen's Road and Grove Road, is to enhance the streetscape outside of shops even further and ensure an accessible route throughout the area.

Proposals for this section of the road include:

- A raised continuous pavement at Ford Road and the estate entrances
- Removing 8 out of 16 loading bays and converting them to short stay/residential parking and parklets
- Ensuring dropped kerbs in all appropriate locations

ADDITIONAL ROAD CLOSURE

A closure is also proposed on Thoydon Road, west of Strahan Road to prevent cut-through traffic avoiding the traffic signals. See plan on page 2 for exact location of closure.

Air pollution is consistently at unacceptable levels at the junction of Roman Road and Ford Close

SCHEME 2 ROMAN ROAD EAST

The Scheme 2 proposal focuses on transforming the town centre, the heart of Bow, and aims to establish a pedestrian friendly space, attracting more visitors to the area.

TRAFFIC CHANGES

We want to create an environment that attracts more people and makes it more pleasant for the thousands of pedestrians walking along Roman Road every day. By extending the existing timed pedestrian hours from the three to seven days and investing in the public space, we hope to achieve this goal.

We propose to increase the pedestrian hours to 10am to 4.30pm, seven days a week.

Further details:

- Licensed market pitch locations remain as usual and will not be impacted
- Loading for businesses remains the same outside of pedestrian hours
- The impact on resident parking is minimised as permit holders can still park on the street outside pedestrian hours.

PUBLIC SPACE

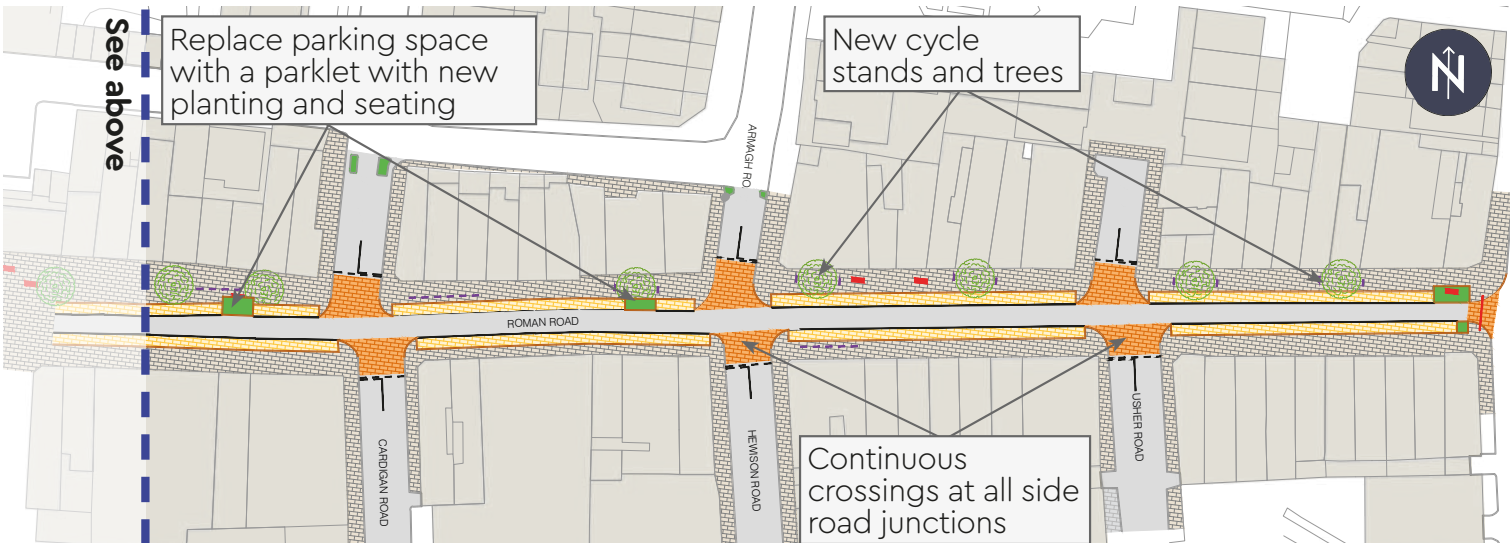
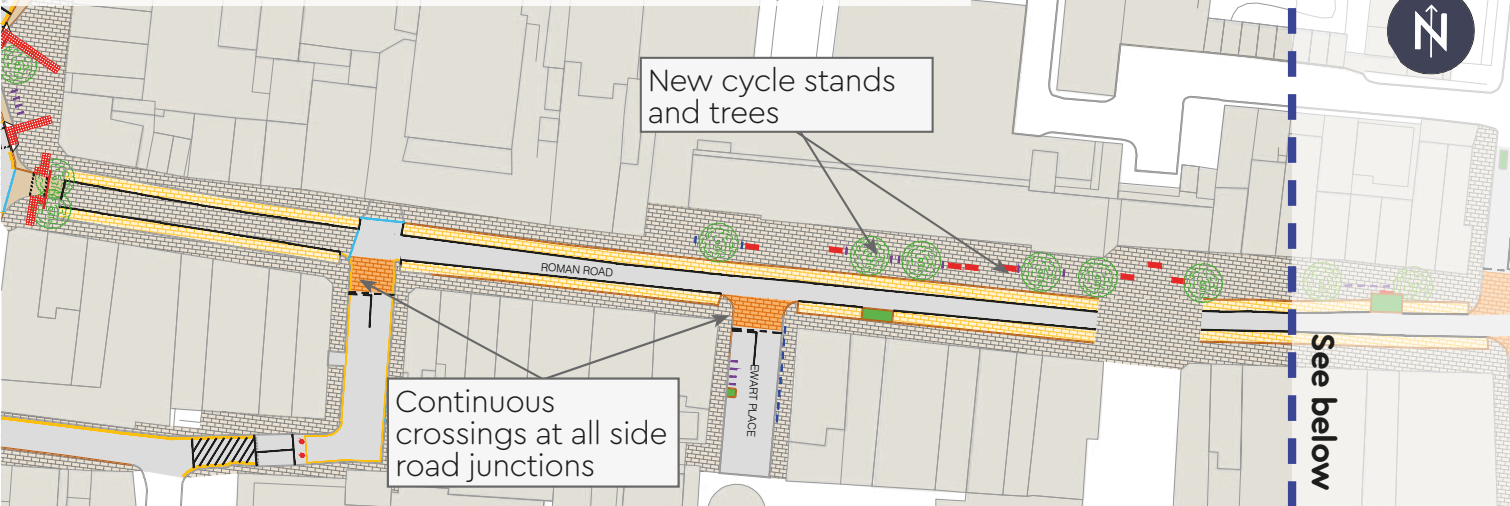
After removing the day time traffic, we propose investing heavily in this area by widening pavements, tree planting, and creating a new public space, where people can stop, rest and spend time. By doing this the town centre becomes even more of a local 'destination' and supports the local economy to thrive.



Artist's Impression of Roman Road proposals

If proposals are carried forward, further local engagement on public spaces will be carried out with businesses, market traders and local residents.

Roman Road Plan between Parnell Road and St Stephen's Road



SCHEME 3 OLD FORD ROAD

WALKING AND CYCLING IMPROVEMENTS

Old Ford Road forms one of the busiest through-traffic routes in Bow. Over 16,000 vehicles use this residential road each day, with more than 55% of vehicles using it as a cut-through by drivers who don't stop locally.

Skew Bridge is temporarily closed in relation to social distancing due to Coronavirus. However residents have suggested closing Skew Bridge permanently to motor vehicles to improve road safety, air quality, and reduce noise pollution.

By reducing traffic volume on Old Ford Road, we can create a cycle and pedestrian friendly environment as a safe alternative to Victoria Park, particularly when the park is closed. This will also link Victoria Park with the nearby shops which improve Bow.

ADDITIONAL PARKING

We are proposing additional resident bays on the either side of Skew Bridge.

ST STEPHEN'S ROAD JUNCTION

We propose to convert the roundabout at junction of St Stephen's Road/Old Ford Road to a T-Junction to increase the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. Three new short stay parking spaces and cycle stands are proposed outside the shops east of St Stephen's junction.



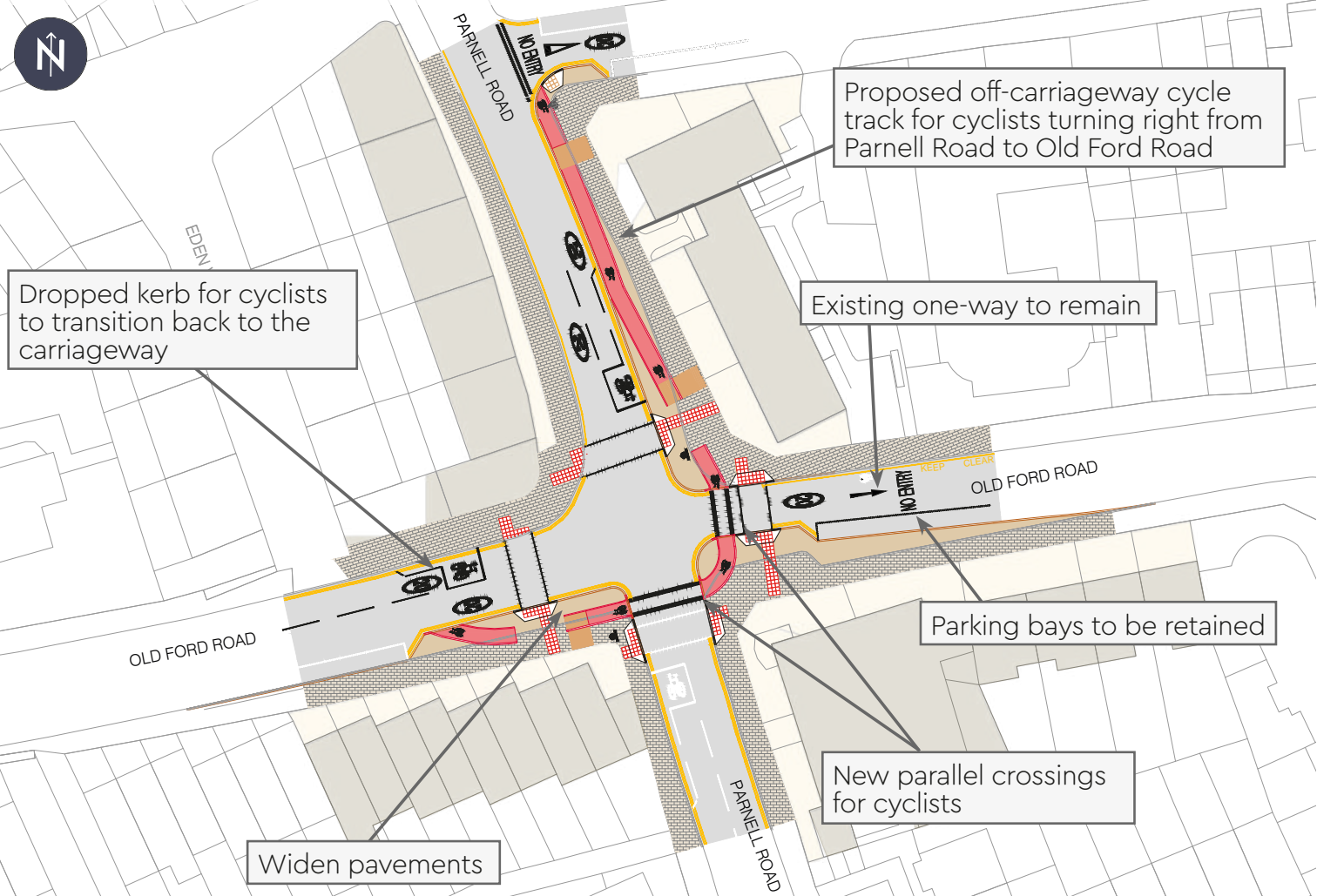
Skew Bridge, Old Ford Road Visualisation

PARNELL ROAD JUNCTION

We also want to improve cycle safety at the junction of Old Ford Road and Parnell Road, to provide a safe route to and from the cycle bridge over the A12.

You said: "The pavement is too narrow on Old Ford Road and too many cars drive too fast which makes it feel very unsafe as a pedestrian. Some cars are reluctant to stop at zebra crossings as well because they are going too fast."

Parnell Road/Old Ford Road Junction Plan



SCHEME 4 ANTILL AND COBORN ROADS

With the proposed closure on Old Ford Road and bus gateway on Roman Road, traffic is likely to seek alternative cut-through routes. In order to stop this from happening and protect walking and cycling routes for residents and young children travelling to school, work and the town centre, several changes to traffic are proposed in this area.

You said: "Antill Road suffers terribly as part of the rat-run - our road is filthy and dangerous with heavy and often speeding through traffic - please help!"

We propose the following:

- Closure at the junction of Selwyn Road and Antill Road.
- Timed closure under the rail bridge on Coborn Road.
- To re-introduce the right turn from Coborn Road into Bow Road. We are also investigating the possibility to reinstate the right turn from Bow Road into Coborn Road with TfL.
- A cycle filter at the existing road closure on Morgan Street. One parking space on Grove Road will be removed to facilitate this.
- To remove three parking spaces on Coborn Road to create passing spaces for vehicles.

COBORN ROAD CLOSURE

We are consulting on different options for how Coborn Road could operate:

- 24 hours a day, Monday to Sunday (this option would allow for a new public space at the closure point with planting and wider pavements)
- Between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday
- From 7am to 10am, and 2.30pm to 7pm, Monday to Friday

PUBLIC SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

By removing the traffic, we are able to plant new trees and planting to make the area look and feel more pleasant. We also want to improve the lighting under the rail bridge, making it feel safer and introduce some street artwork to reflect the old Coborn Station history.

Children in Tower Hamlets have up to 10% less lung capacity than the national average because of air pollution



SCHEME 5 BOW WALKING ROUTES

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

We want to make walking one of the best ways to get around Bow.

Several roads are well-used walking routes but currently lack the features to make walking safe and accessible for all.

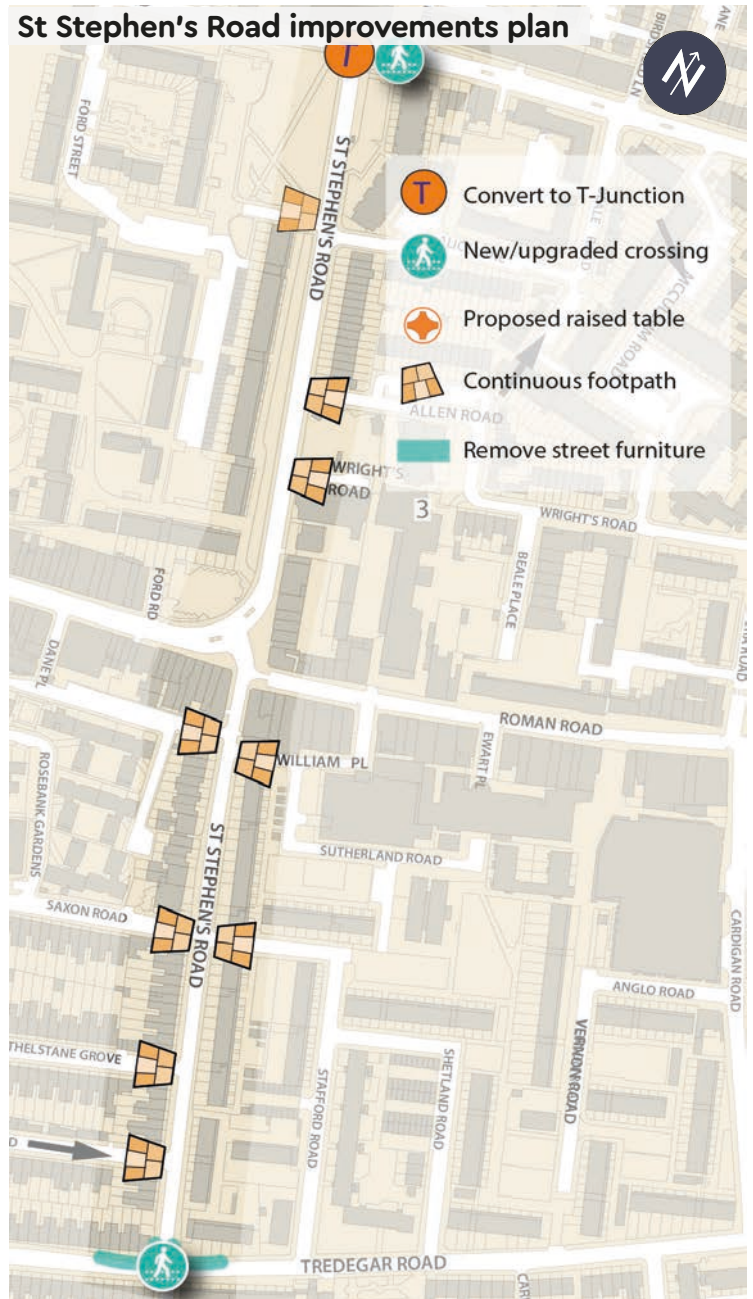
To fix this, we propose the introduction of appropriate dropped kerbs, safe crossing points and pavements wide enough for exploring the neighbourhoods easily.

A safe and convenient walking route, connecting public transport links south of the Roman Road Town Centre and north towards Victoria Park is a priority. To support a reduction in air pollution we want to encourage people to walk, rather than using their cars.

The **Scheme 4** proposal details:

- Continuous crossings at all side-road junctions on St Stephen's Road and Coborn Road to give visual priority to pedestrians.
- Decluttered pavements wide enough for buggies and wheelchairs where possible and dropped kerbs in all appropriate locations on Coborn Road, Tredegar Square, Morgan Road, Medway Road, Addington Road and Vernon Road.
- Improvements to the area around Tom Thumb's Arch. Better lighting, new public art and a safer crossing area. If proposals are carried forward, there will be further local involvement on the new public artwork.
- A new zebra crossing is proposed on Malmesbury Road and a raised table at the Mostyn Grove, Ordell Road and Morville Street junction.
- Wayfinding upgrades to separate cycle and pedestrian routes on Lawrence Close and improvements to lighting and the planted area.
- Decluttering the pavements on Tredegar Road by removing the pedestrian guardrails.
- It is also proposed to slightly reposition the crossing at the junction with St Stephen's Road to improve visibility of pedestrians and make the crossing safer.
- A new raised table on Tredegar Road near the junction with Coborn Road will make crossing easier and will slow down vehicles.
- We are also working with Old Ford Housing Association to improve the walking route along McCullum Road into Wright's Road.

You said: "Make walking along and crossing Tredegar, Coburn and St Stephens Road safer and more relaxed. Reduce the number of parked cars, narrow the road, wider pavements, traffic calming, less street clutter."



SCHEME 6 FAIRFIELD ROAD

TRAFFIC CALMING

We want to improve safety for pedestrians and motorists by slowing vehicle speeds on Fairfield Road, Parnell Road and Jodrell Road by introducing more raised tables. This includes raising zebra crossings on these roads to encourage vehicles to slow down in high pedestrian areas.

With less traffic travelling through Bow, we propose to also update the signal timing at the junction of Fairfield Road and the A11 to allow for a pedestrian crossing across the Fairfield Road arm of the junction.

WALKING IMPROVEMENTS

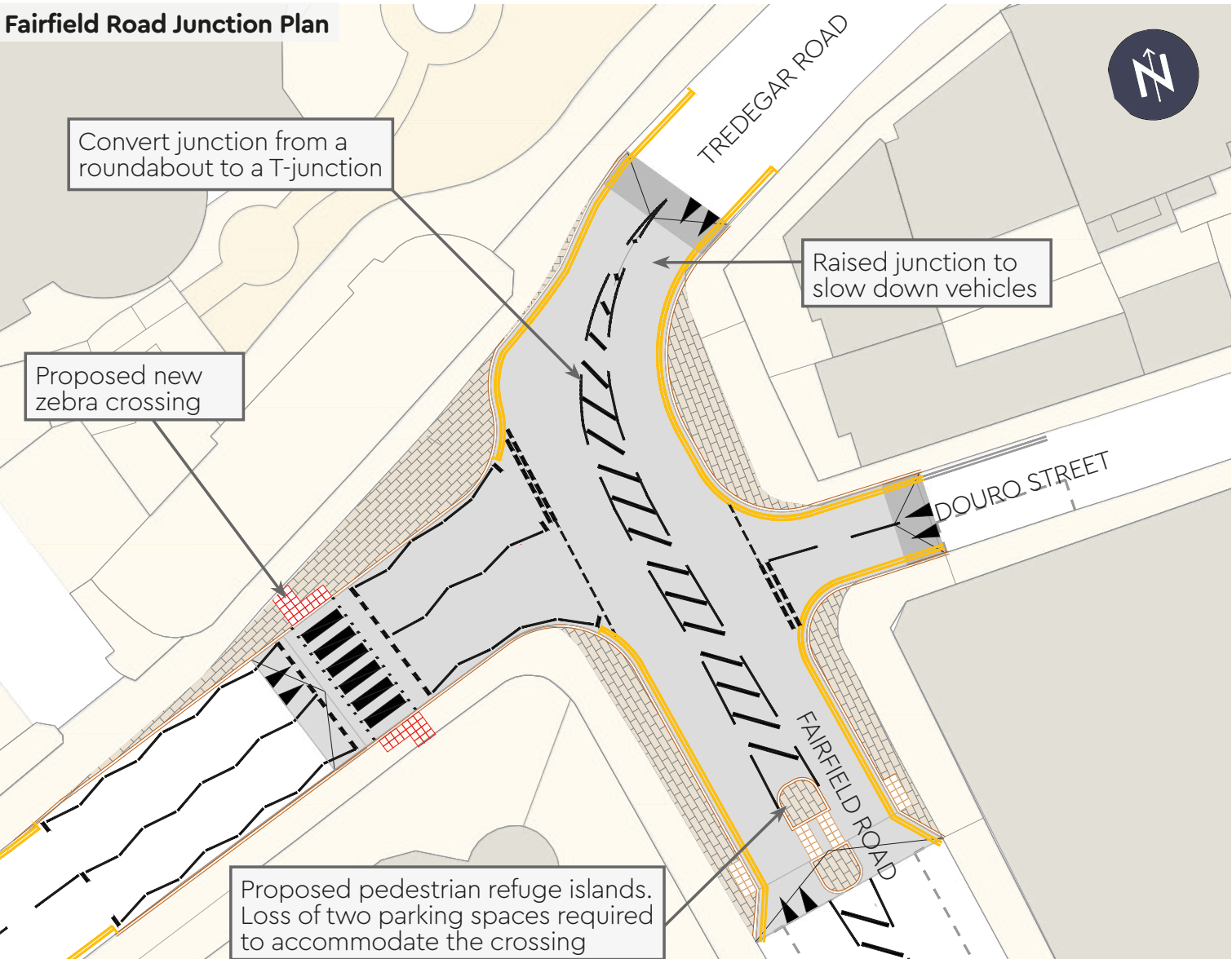
To enable safer pedestrian crossing facilities, it is proposed the roundabout at Fairfield and Tredegar Road becomes a T-Junction.

Pedestrian crossing facilities include a zebra crossing on Tredegar Road and a pedestrian refuge island on Fairfield Road.

Complementary measures such as cycle hangars, play streets and cycle training are also included in the Liveable Streets Bow programme.

You said: "Constant speeding. Motorists use Fairfield Road as a rat-run. Needs to be one way, single-lane, or have speed bumps."

68% of vehicles on Fairfield Road travel above the 20mph limit



SCHEME 7 SCHOOL STREETS

As part of our ongoing commitment to reduce emissions around schools, we are proposing to introduce School Streets in the area. This would enable streets to be closed to motor vehicles in the morning and afternoon of each school day to allow children, parents, and staff to get to and from school via walking, cycling or scooting in a safe, healthy environment.

SCHOOL STREETS

Roads outside schools will be closed to motor vehicles between 08:15am to 09:15am in the morning and 3:00pm to 4:00pm in the afternoon. This will enable children and parents to arrive and leave the schools safely and encourage more active travel.

Enforcement of school street restrictions will be done via Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras with all residents living on roads closed at school times eligible to apply for exemptions.

SCHOOL STREET SCHOOLS

- At Chisenhale Primary School, pedestrian and cycle zones on Vivian Road, Zealand Road and Chisenhale Road are proposed. Wider pavements and planting outside the school gate on Chisenhale Road, where existing yellow zig zag markings lie, are also included in the proposals.
- At Olga Primary School, pedestrian and cycle zones are proposed on Lanfranc Road and Conyer Street, with better lighting also under investigation on the walkway between Olga Street to Arbery Road.

- At Old Ford Primary School, pedestrian and cycle zones are proposed on Allen Road and a section of Wright's Road to remove cars from outside the school gate and prevent resident carparks from being used at pick-up and drop-off. Timed pedestrian hours are also proposed for the Wright's Road cul-de-sac off St Stephen's Road, along with streetscape improvements and student-led designs for a colourful paving upgrade. These proposals create a playful, positive space.
- As part of Tower Hamlets School Streets programme outside Malmesbury Primary School, Coborn Street will be made a pedestrian and cycle zone between 8.15am to 9.15am and 3.00pm to 4.00pm on school days. New cycle parking and planted areas are also proposed. The plan is overleaf on page 12.

To increase safety for children, staff and families at Central Foundation Girls School and Sixth Form proposals on Harley Grove were re-consulted in 2019. A decision will be released later this year.

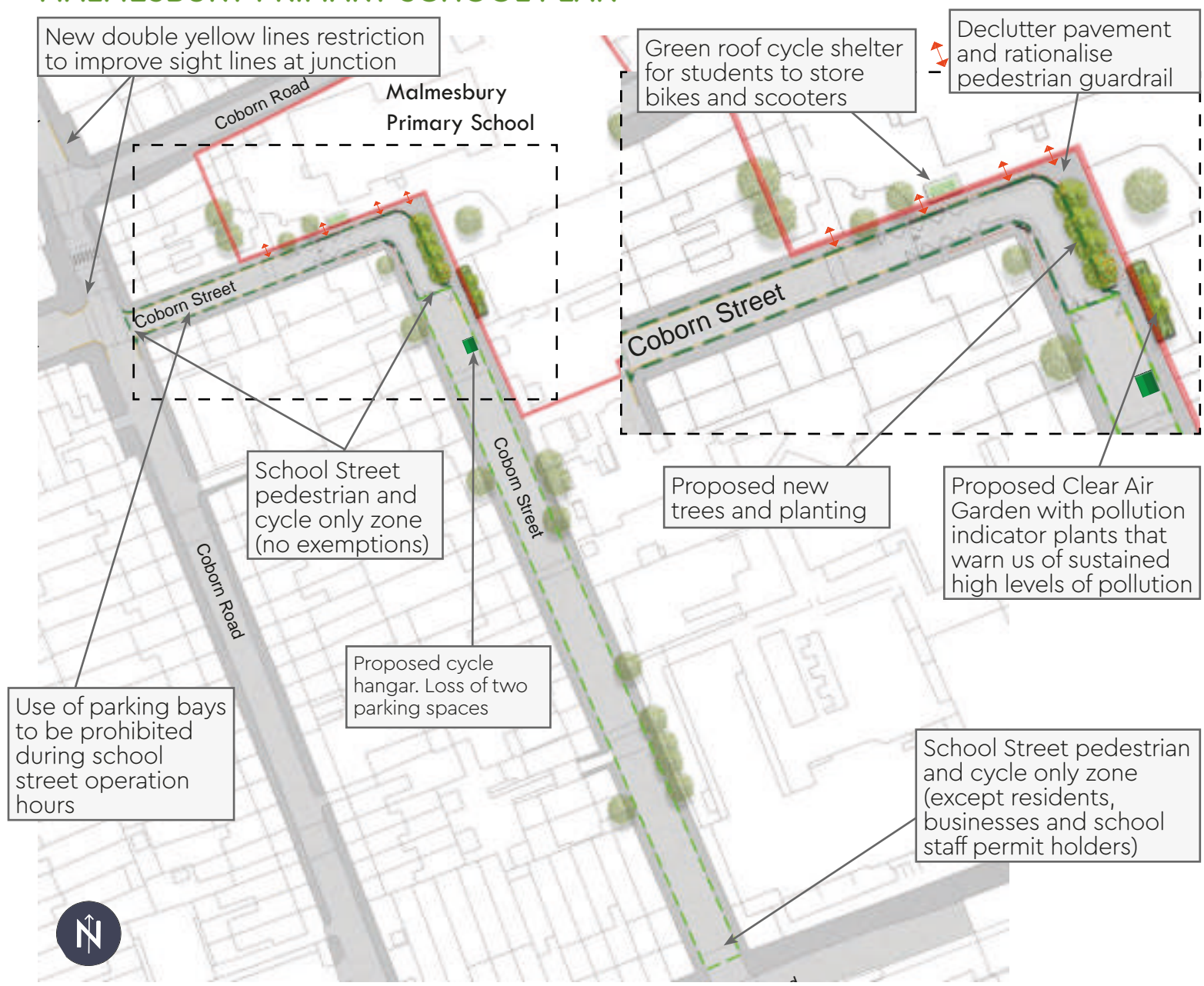
You said: "There is too much pollution near schools. Schools should have more planting, cycle storage, greener streets."

Example of an existing student-led School Street design in Tower Hamlets



You said: "Every school and nursery in Bow should have a school street to allow parents to pick up and drop off easily and healthily."

MALMESBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAN



HAVE YOUR SAY

Your views are important to us. We want everyone who lives, works and studies in the Bow area to have their say on the proposed changes by midnight on Wednesday 29 July 2020.

Have your say by filling out the survey attached to this booklet, or to fill it out online please visit: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/liveablestreets

If you require information in another format or have any further questions, email, phone or write to us at:

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