

Jesus Hospital Estate area Liveable Streets

Consultation and Results Summary



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Introduction

As part of the Liveable Streets Bethnal Green public consultation, it was proposed to close the junction of Barnet Grove and Columbia Road to motor vehicles. The consultation results showed that 62% of the respondents within the scheme area were supportive of the closure at the junction of Barnet Grove and Columbia Road.

Although the majority of the respondents from the area were supportive of the closure, comments were raised to change its location to better serve the market and residents in the area. It was agreed at Cabinet (January 2020) that further engagement should take place with the local community on the location of the closure point. This document outlines the results of the engagement that took place on the two potential alternative closure locations.

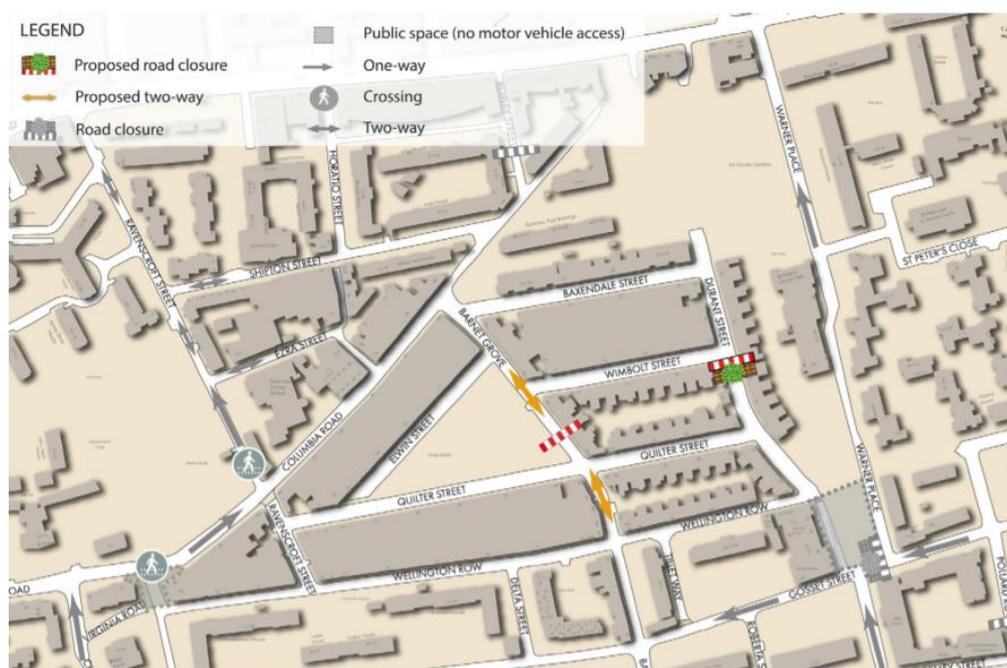
Public Engagement

The engagement began on Monday 13 July 2020 and ran until Sunday 9 August 2020. Consultation documents, which included surveys and freepost envelopes, were distributed to 1,577 properties within the agreed consultation area. The deadline for survey responses was extended to Sunday 9 August, as misinformation was shared, and the council wanted to ensure inclusivity. Due to COVID-19 all drop-in events were hosted virtually.

Option 1: Durant Street and Barnet Grove

This option included:

- A road closure on Barnet Grove between Wimbolt Street and Quilter Street. This closure will allow emergency vehicle access.
- A road closure and pocket park on Durant Street at the junction of Wimbolt Street.
- Both closures allow for full pedestrian and cycle access. Access to market trader parking bays remain the same for Durant Street.



Option 2: Quilter Street, Wellington Row and Barnet Grove

Option 2 included:

- A road closure on Barnet Grove, north of the junction with Wellington Row and a closure on Wellington Row, east of the junction with Barnet Grove and will allow emergency vehicle access.
- A road closure and pocket park at the junction with Quilter Street, and Ravenscroft Street.
- Barnet Grove becomes two-way between Elwin Street and Wellington Row with access to market trader parking bays remain the same for Durant Street.
- Both closures allow for full pedestrian and cycle access. Access to market trader parking bays remain the same for Durant Street.



Engagement Activities

A summary of the activities for the project area are shown below:

- Consultation documents delivered to 1,577 properties.
- Monday 13 July 2020, email to stakeholders and residents regarding the commencement of consultation.
- A dedicated webpage was set up for members of the public to register their interest in attending a virtual drop-in session. Individuals were directed to fill out their contact information and select from a drop-down menu which virtual session they wished to attend.

- Two sessions for virtual drop-in events or phone calls were arranged on the below dates:

Wednesday 22 July 2020 and Tuesday 28 July 2020

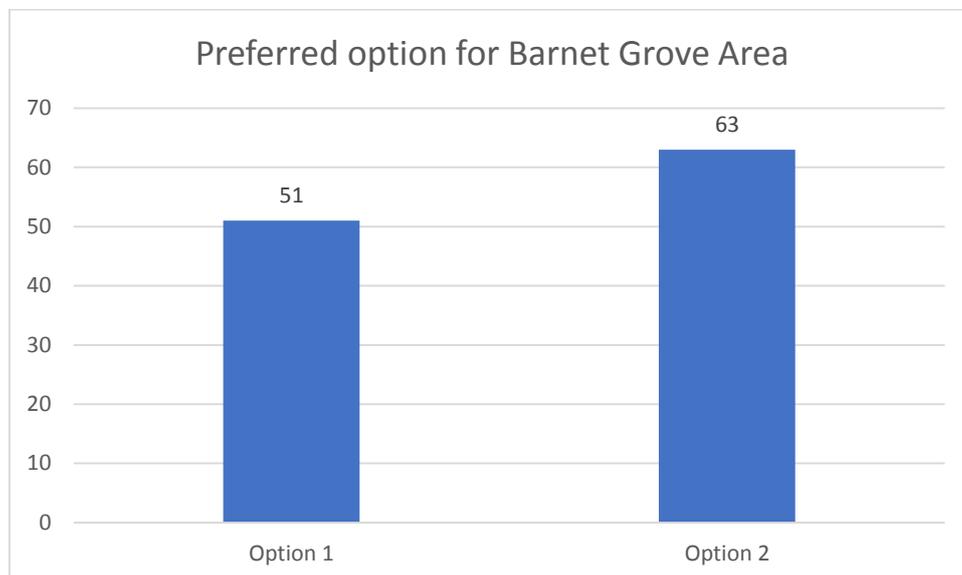
Additional meetings and communication:

- Stakeholder emails were sent on Monday 13 July 2020 and a reminder email was sent on the 22 July 2020.
- A drop-in session was held online with the Tower Hamlets Market team on Tuesday 21 July. This was subsequently followed up with a site visit to engage with traders directly. Social distancing measures were adhered to.
- Engagement on site Sunday 26 July 2020 with Columbia Road flower market traders and local businesses. Consultation documents were distributed on site.

Results

Respondents had the option to choose between either the closures in Option 1 or Option 2 within the Jesus Hospital Estate area. We received 151 responses in total, all were from within the consultation area. And the breakdown can be seen below:

Please let us know your preferred option for the Jesus Hospital Estate area



Option 2 was a clear favoured option from those responding to the consultation.

It should be noted 37 (25%) of respondents chose not to select either of the options. It was found that those who did not choose an option were opposed to both closure suggestions.

Free Text Comments – Analysis

126 survey respondents left a comment.

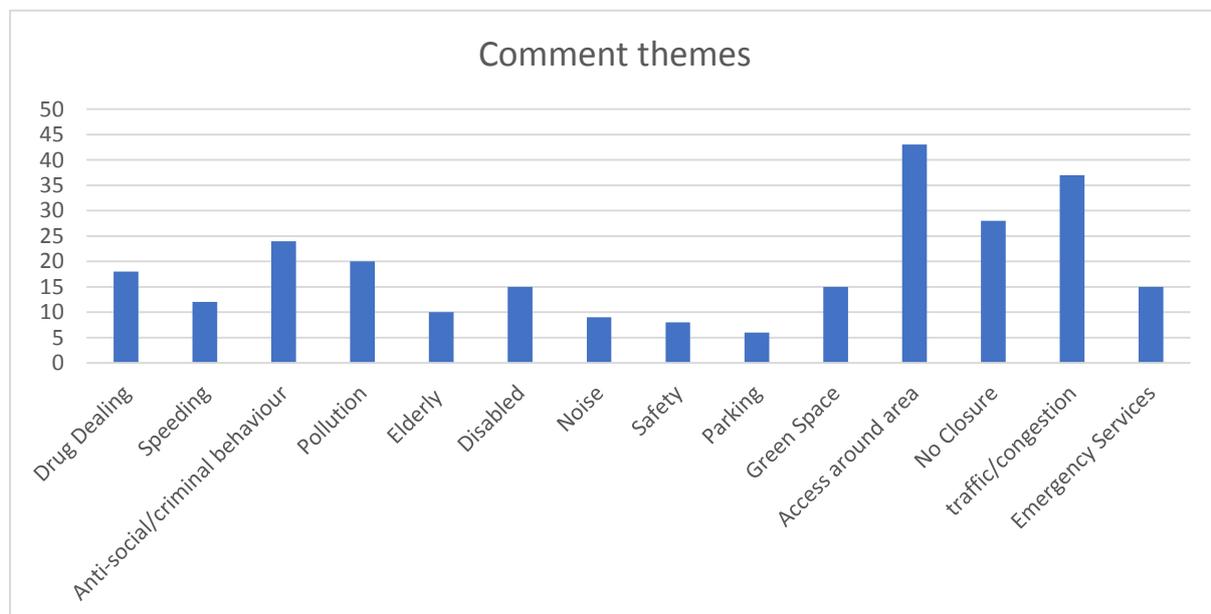
There were mixed opinions towards the proposed closure options. It was commonly found that those who did not choose either option often left a negative comment or were opposed to both closure options.

Speeding reduction was a key theme in many positive responses. Of those that mentioned speeding many associated it with drug dealing from cars.

There were positive responses mentioning safety and how closures will reduce traffic, making the area much safer and less polluted.

There were positive comments received for more greening within the area.

The following themes were identified within the comments (some respondents had multiple different themes in their comments):



Issues/Concerns raised

The main concerns that were raised in the comments were:

- The market has extended because of the social distancing regulations and therefore there would be no access on a Sunday.

The design has been completed in partnership with the markets team and we will ensure that there is access to all residential and business properties including on a Sunday. As mentioned in the consultation document *'Regardless of the consultation outcome, Sunday access for residents will not be impacted. Residents and visitors will still be able to access properties on Sunday in the same way they do currently. Access will either be via Ravenscroft Street and Shipton Street or Squirries Street and Gosset Street.'*

- That emergency services will not be able to access the area or would slow their response times

We have regular meetings with the emergency services to discuss design of Liveable Streets project including the closures proposed within this consultation to ensure that we meet any concerns they may have. We will continue to liaise with the emergency services even after the closures are implemented to understand concerns or issues they may have.

- Access to the area by motor vehicle including those that are disabled or elderly.

There will continue to be access to all properties including on Sunday albeit via a different route. In addition we will continue to meet with and discuss traffic changes in the Bethnal Green area and other areas with local representative groups. We do not seek endorsement of our proposals by these groups as they represent a diverse group of residents with different needs and views, but instead do seek to share plans and listen to relevant feedback.

Alternative considerations

There were 21 comments made by those opposed to closures suggesting the implementation of ANPR cameras and resident number plate recognition as an alternative to closing roads.

The use of ANPR with resident exemption was considered as part of the scheme but neither closure system will be progressed. Both measures are unsuitable for the Barnet Grove area as they would contradict the Liveable Streets aim of encouraging sustainable travel and reducing traffic volumes on local roads.

A timed closure would create a significant traffic increase on residential streets outside of the controlled hours. This is likely to include a transfer of vehicles from Warner Place and Squirries Street, recorded at over 2,000 vehicle movements a day.

Placing a closure with resident exemptions using a camera system on Barnet Grove would create a new local cut-through for residents in the wider area, dramatically increasing vehicle movements on Barnet Grove and on the surrounding Wellington Row, Columbia Road and Shipton Street.

Recommendations

As Option 2 is the preferred option from the public consultation, it is recommended that this option is brought forward and implemented, using physical closures in order to create attractive public space, and remove through traffic.