



St Helen's Gardens Proposed Improvements



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA



Dear resident/local business,

In the *St Quintin & Woodlands Neighbourhood Plan* – adopted after a 2016 local referendum – residents asked the Council to consider pedestrian-friendly public realm improvements on St Helens Gardens.

Since then, I have asked local representatives to join me in setting up the St Helens Gardens Working Group to examine the project. I am grateful to the St Quintin & Woodland's Neighbourhood Forum and St Helens Church whose insight has helped us develop a scheme that we think can enhance the layout of the area. I am especially grateful to ward members, Cllrs Mo Bakhtiar and Portia Thaxter for their support of the scheme.

I feel that we now have a design that would successfully tackle the existing problems – especially around the speeds and flows of traffic – and make the area more attractive to residents, traders and visitors without compromising its unique character.

I hope you agree and I look forward to hearing your views on the proposals.

Johnny Thalassites, Lead Member for Planning, Place and Environment

"The Lead Member for Planning, Place and Environment, Cllr Johnny Thalassites, and your Ward Councillors, Mo Bakhtiar and Portia Thaxter, are supporting the scheme, because it can reduce vehicle speed, introduce more trees and new planting on the street.

There will be the same number of parking bays under this proposal, however, their layout might change.

We need our residents' views on this and that is why we are asking you to share your views with us."

Why?

The St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum Neighbourhood Plan identified the opportunity for St Helen's Gardens to act as a focal point for the area and the local community.

In 2018 there was a serious collision at the junction of St Helen's Gardens and St Quintin Avenue involving a pedestrian. We have also received numerous complaints about traffic speeds on

St Quintin Avenue and in the vicinity of St Helen's Gardens over the years.

We have therefore taken this opportunity to put together proposals to enhance the street and to address the road safety concerns on St Helen's Gardens itself and on St Quintin Avenue in the vicinity of the junction to help pedestrians and to reduce traffic speeds.

What are the proposals?

During the last few weeks, with valued input from the St Helen's Gardens Working Group, we have been working to develop a proposal to improve St Helen's Gardens, to enhance the neighbourhood shopping area and to address road safety concerns. We have listened carefully to the suggestions and concerns raised by this working group and now feel that we have a scheme that fulfils all the requirements and addresses all the areas of concern. We would now like to hear if the local community would like us to implement the scheme.

This scheme will be funded from the Council's Car Parking Reserve. This is a funding stream which can only be used for maintenance of our highways or for environmental improvement schemes such as this.

The main features of the proposed scheme, illustrated in this leaflet, are:

- A wider footway with natural stone paving
- Parking and loading bays on both sides of the road laid in porphyry setts to give a hard wearing and attractive surface

- Raised tables at all the junctions to help slow traffic and to make it easier for pedestrians to cross, with continuous crossings provided on the side roads
- A raised informal crossing near the church to help people cross St Helen's Gardens
- Additional planting to help improve air quality, including both new trees and low-level planting. This could include sustainable drainage
- New seating and cycle parking stands
- Bollards to prevent informal parking on the forecourts
- A new raised zebra crossing on St Quintin Avenue to assist pedestrians and to help reduce traffic speeds
- Additional parking bays on St Quintin Avenue to compensate for reduced number of parking spaces on St Helen's Gardens

To make your views known please complete the attached questionnaire, detach it from the booklet and return it to us by 15th June 2021.










PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN



St Helen's Gardens Consultation

GRAPHIC KEY

- 01  Wider footway in natural Yorkstone
- 02  Continuous paved crossing
- 03  Raised zebra crossing with granite ramps
- 04  New trees. Subject to investigations
- 05  Planted beds or rain gardens
- 06  Parking and loading bays to be laid in Porphyry setts
- 07  Bollards to prevent ad-hoc parking
- 08  Cycle parking
- 09  Existing trees

DESIGN PRECEDENTS



Raised tables with granite ramps



Continuous footways



Rain gardens or beds with diverse planting



New trees adding to character and biodiversity



Parking bays paved with Porphyry setts



Cycle parking along street edge

Are you?

A local Resident

A local Business

Do you wish to see the proposed scheme introduced?

Yes

No

No opinion

If you have any further comments about the proposals, please outline these below:

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. Please return it to us by **15th June 2021**.

Using your personal information

The information you have provided to the Consultation Team and the Streets and Regulatory Services will only be used to understand respondents' views on the proposed improvements to St Helen's Gardens. Your address and postcode may be used to map responses and to better understand the views of people from different streets. This is to ensure we are accurately capturing the views of residents and businesses in the area. Your information will only be used for the intended purpose, we will not collect any additional information about yourself, we will not share your data with other Council Departments and or external bodies. If we intend to use your information for any other purpose, we will normally ask you first. In some cases, the Council may use your information for another purpose if it has a legal duty to do so, to provide a complete service to you, or if there is a risk of serious harm or threat to life.

If you have any questions regarding your Data Protection rights, such as accessing your personal information, etc. or if you have a concern over the handling of your information. You can email consult@rbkc.gov.uk