

Dear Northolt Resident

Have your say on the closure of Church Road at its junction with Mandeville Road

The closure of Church Road aims to provide a direct walking and cycling link between valuable green spaces in Northolt. The closure will remain in place until March 2023 to allow for new traffic surveys to be carried out and community engagement to take place. From Monday 5 December, the closure will be enforced via camera to measure the true impact the closure has on the local road network. From February 2023, we will share this data with you and consult on whether the closure should remain.

Background

There have long been complaints from residents about Mandeville Road and about Church Road (known locally as Little Church Road or Church Road-East) and the Village being used as a cut through by commuter traffic. Consultation with the local community also identified that green spaces in Northolt were separated from each other and it was difficult for pedestrians to cross Mandeville Road. Proposals were first developed and consulted on in 2016 to address issues of safety, connectivity, and congestion along Church Road/Mandeville Road. As part of this we consulted on a plan to safely link Islip Manor Park with Belvue Park via a new pedestrian crossing on Mandeville Road. This would lead onto Little Church Road, which would be made safer for pedestrians and cyclists by closing it off to cars and stopping cut throughs.

In June 2020, in response to the Covid pandemic, Ealing Council implemented an emergency closure of Church Road between its junction with Mandeville Road and Ealing Road. This was primarily in response to Government and Transport for London directives to allocate road space to pedestrians and cyclists for social distancing and offset a potential increase in car travel due to reduced public transport capacity. However, this was also in line with the plans that had been consulted on previously. Planters and signage were then installed in May 2021.

With the passing of the pandemic, the long-term objective of creating a high-quality cycling and walking route and implementing wider improvements in Northolt is again the priority.

The closure would allow the relocation of an existing signal-controlled crossing, providing a direct link for pedestrians and cyclists between Islip Manor Park and Belvue Park, which in turn will contribute to the creation of a 'Green Ring' linking local green spaces and providing connections to Northolt Village, the canal towpath, Nothala Fields and beyond.

It also helps to deliver other improvements of benefit to bus passengers and pedestrians, as well as the wider urban realm and active travel improvements proposed as part of the Visions for Northolt scheme.

The closure will remain in place until March 2023 to enable accurate data collection and community engagement to take place. Ealing Council is committed to working with local people to review the data and whether this closure should remain in place or not.

What local people have said so far

Since the closure was first introduced, residents have expressed the following concerns:

- The data collected to monitor the impact of the closure was not widely shared and didn't address local concerns.
- The 'pros' and 'cons' of the closure were not clearly communicated. Some people felt the closure resulted in increased rat running on adjacent residential streets and that cyclists and pedestrian numbers have not increased.
- The closure is not currently being enforced. In some cases, this closure is being ignored by vehicles.

What is happening next?

Between November - February 2023, new data will be collected. During this period, from Monday 5 December, the closure will be enforced via camera to ensure this data is accurate. Only through enforcement, can we measure the true impact the closure has on the local road network.

In February - March 2023, we will consult on whether the closure should remain in place. The 'pros' and 'cons' of the closure will be clearly presented. The new data will be widely shared to inform these conversations. We will make a decision which is based on all the evidence.

How does this closure relate to the wider Visions for Northolt scheme?

This closure was originally part of a bigger project that proposed a new crossing at the top of 'little' Church Road and across Mandeville Road, better connecting the

Village and Islip Manor Park. Owing to funding shortages at the time, this crossing was not delivered.

The Visions for Northolt funding means that this idea can be revisited. From February 2023, Visions for Northolt will consult with local people on design options for Mandeville Road. It is important to consider these options when sharing your views on the closure in February - March 2023.

How can I share my feedback?

Email: General feedback, comments on the traffic surveys and all other enquiries can be sent to: trafficnotices@ealing.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8825 6710

Key dates

- **November 2022 – February 2022:** Share your feedback on the closure and data collection.
- **Monday 5 December 2022 - March 2023:** Closure enforced via camera to enable accurate data collection.
- **February - March 2023:** Consultation on whether the closure should remain in place. Further details will be available early next year.

As set out in Ealing Council's Travel in Ealing Charter, we are committed to being open, transparent, and inclusive in how we engage on transport and active travel projects. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

If you require further information or to request these documents in a different language, please email trafficnotices@ealing.gov.uk

Highway Services

Ealing Council