

Get Southall Moving

Public consultation results

November 2024

EALING COUNCIL

What is 'Get Southall Moving?'

To improve people's health, Ealing Council is investing in Southall and working with the community to make it safer and easier for people to get moving.

The council is proposing ways to make the roads safer, less congested and easier to walk, wheel or cycle on, plus make Southall a better place to live and work in by making it greener and more attractive.

What are the expected results?

- Safer, easier and more pleasant travel for everyone in Southall, including cyclists and pedestrians.
- Greener and more attractive public spaces.
- By making cycle paths and pavements safer and more attractive, it should increase people choosing to walk and cycle leading to improved health outcomes.

Why is it needed in Southall?

1. Improving people's health

Southall has the highest proportion of self-reported bad or very bad health across the borough.

- Highest rate of diabetes across the 7 towns (1.6 times the borough average)
- Highest rate of hypertension across the 7 towns (1.2 times the borough average)

Being physically active is good for these conditions, plus there is increasing evidence that links adult obesity levels and travel behaviour. For example, Western countries with the highest levels of active travel generally also have the lowest obesity rates.

Get Southall Moving is therefore designed to make it easier and safer to walk and cycle – the most effective ways to promote routine physical activity, which contributes to active, healthier people.

2. Reduce congestion and improve safety

Half the traffic in Southall is using the town as a through route, contributing nothing to the community.

36 pedestrians or cyclists have been hurt or killed in road collisions between 2019 and 2022.

3. Greener and more attractive streets

Green infrastructure helps to clean our air, reduce the risk of flooding and keep the borough cool, as well as creating biodiversity habitats for local wildlife.

Asking the people of Southall what they want

Ealing Council ran a consultation in Southall to understand the specific needs of the community traveling when it comes to traveling around this part of the borough.

During a series of in-person drop-in sessions, council staff presented their ideas to the community and gathered feedback to understand what improvements could be made to encourage active travel and make walking and cycling easier.

Several waking tours also took place, so the community could see the proposed areas for improvements.

Added to the in-person conversations, the council received over 500 feedback responses to the online survey where the key areas, identified by the local community, for improving were:

- barriers to walking
- barriers to cycling
- barriers to using public transport
- concerns over illegal parking and lack of enforcement
- concerns over lack of parking

Consultation feedback – the connection to Southall

Survey respondents were asked which statements best described their connection to Southall.

The top response was 'I live in Southall' followed by people who visit friends or family in Southall.

Other responses included visiting a place of worship, travelling through Southall, visiting Southall on occasion, holding an allotment plot, use of sports facilities, travelling to school in Southall, a bus driver, a former resident, and a resident of Hanwell, bordering Southall.

Respondents were also asked to rank a series of general suggestions for improving Southall's streets. The answers were on a scale of one to five, with one indicating the suggestion is not at all important, and five indicating the suggestion is very important.

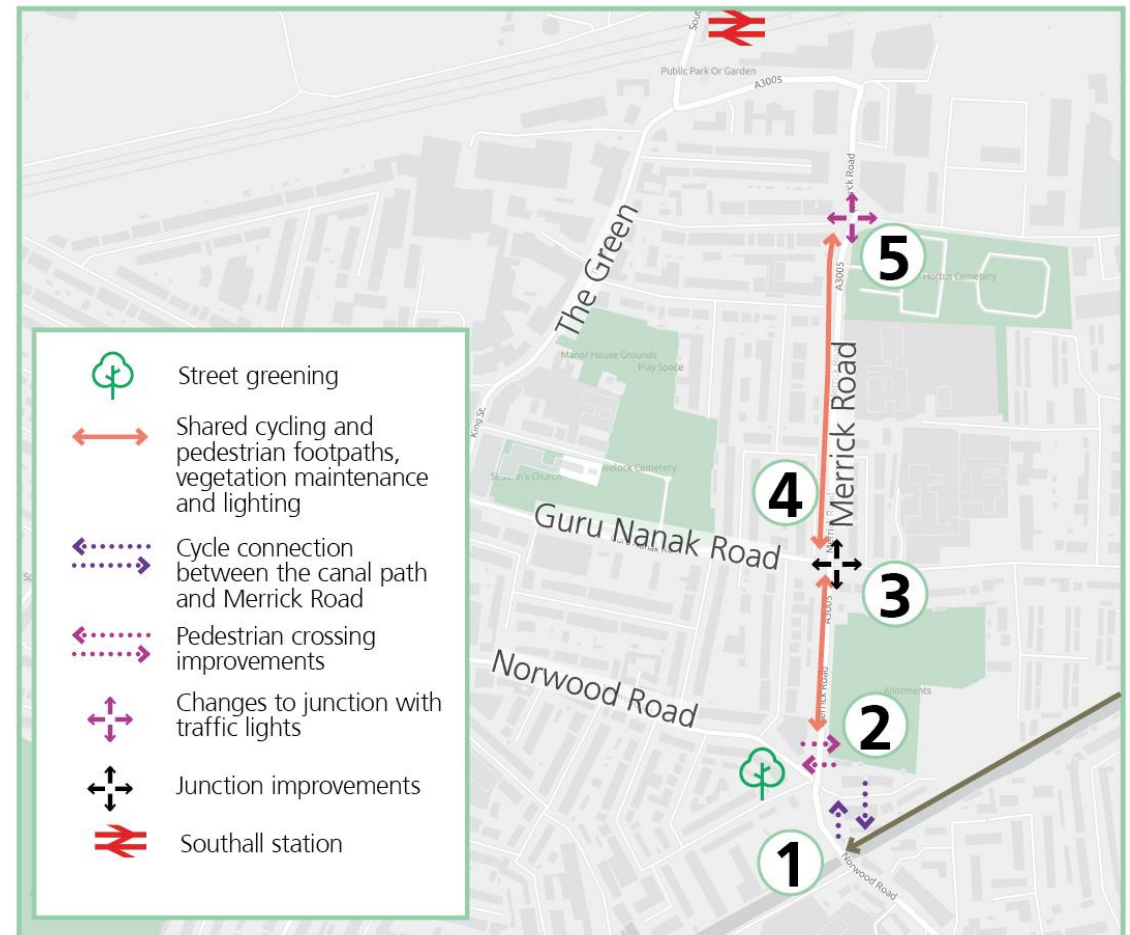
- more trees, plants and greenery
- wider and better pavements
- crossings for people walking and wheeling (wheelchairs, mobility scooters, pushchairs, bikes, etc)
- cycle lanes
- faster buses
- street lighting
- more street furniture such as benches, bins, and planters

Of the seven general suggestions, street lighting and more trees, plants and greenery were two most important things, compared to cycle lanes which came out as the least important suggestion.

Proposed plans

The council took the feedback received from residents at the in-person workshops and through the survey and outlined plans at the following locations:

1. Merrick Road and Norwood Road roundabout
2. Merrick Road (north of Norwood Road roundabout)
3. Havelock Road, Merrick Road & Guru Nanak Road junction
4. Merrick Road
5. Havelock Road
6. Avenue Road to Merrick Road



1. Merrick Road and Norwood Road roundabout

Residents informed us of issues when walking and requested wider footpaths.

What Ealing Council propose to do:

Narrow the carriageway on Norwood Road between the access to the canal, and the Merrick Road and Norwood Road roundabout, and on Merrick Road just north of the roundabout up to the existing informal crossing.

Convert informal crossing into a toucan crossing as described on the next page. The additional space is proposed to be used to provide a shared path for walking and cycling, connecting the canal to Merrick Road.

Remove existing raised planters and guardrails.

2. Merrick Road (north of Norwood Road roundabout)

Residents shared that it feels unsafe to walk down Merrick Road

What Ealing Council propose to do:

Convert the existing informal crossing to a new toucan signalised crossing to connect the proposed shared path for cyclists and pedestrians to Merrick Road and the connection to the canal path.

Widen the north-west pavement to increase the distance between the left turn movement and the proposed crossing.

3. Havelock Road, Merrick Road & Guru Nanak Road

Residents asked to make it easier for pedestrians to cross the road.

What Ealing Council propose to do:

Convert the existing pedestrian crossing over Havelock Road into a toucan crossing, widen the pavement to provide a shared pedestrian and cycle path between the proposed toucan crossing over Havelock Road, to the existing bi-direction cycleway on the western side of Merrick Road.

Widen the pavements, adding traffic lights to the existing crossing and narrowing the road where Merrick Road meets Havelock Road, so the crossings are shorter.

Reduce the number of lanes along Merrick Road to one northbound and one southbound lane.

4. Merrick Road

Residents stated that it feels unsafe to walk and cycle on Merrick Road.

What Ealing Council propose to do:

Create a shared cycle and pedestrian path on the western side of Merrick Road, from the proposed toucan crossing to Church Road, connecting to the cycle track on Merrick Road.

Widen and improve the pavement between the suggested traffic lights at the Guru Nanak Junction and the existing cycle lane on the western side of Merrick Road.

Improve lighting and cut back the existing vegetation, leaving all established trees, but removing the bushes that block visibility from the road.

Widen existing pavement to accommodate the shared path.

5. Havelock Road

Residents have asked for more space for people to walk on the pavement.

What Ealing Council propose to do:

Move existing off-carriageway parking to on-carriageway and consolidated, with spaces provided for opposing vehicles to pass each other and allocate more space for pedestrians.

Retained between Merrick Road and Willowbrook Road.

It's also proposed to 'microsurface' the carriageway, an effective and economical way to preserve and protect the road surface, plus introduce some Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs) to the greenspace.

6. Avenue Road to Merrick Road

Residents stated that South Road Bridge is unsafe for cyclists, and the new bridge is not accessible. It does not feel safe to travel down Merrick Road due to overgrown vegetation and there is a need for wider footpaths.

What Ealing Council propose to do:

Convert the existing pedestrian crossing over Havelock Road into a toucan crossing, widen the pavement to provide a shared pedestrian and cycle path between the proposed toucan crossing over Havelock Road, to the existing bi-direction cycleway on the western side of Merrick Road.

Make it easier to cycle along Avenue Road to Merrick Road, so you do not have to use South Road Bridge. We also suggest installing lifts to the bridge.

Upgrade Merrick Road cycle path, a new shared cycle way on Avenue Road and cycle friendly crossings. We suggest improving lighting and vegetation along the shared cycle footpath on Merrick Road.

What happens now?

You can find out more about Get Southall Moving, and keep up to date with plans and developments here: www.ealing.gov.uk/get-southall-moving

Or you can email the Get Southall Moving team on regeneration@ealing.gov.uk or write to Regeneration Team, Perceval House, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, London W5 2HL.