Council Tax Exemption Consultation

1

Public Consultation

Environment and Customer Services

HAVE YOUR SAY

Proposed closure of Denehurst Gardens to through traffic

Introduction

We are consulting the Residents of Denehurst Gardens on the proposal to physically close Denehurst Gardens, at the junction with Uxbridge Road to the passage of motor vehicles.

Please complete this questionnaire. Your views are important.

The closing date for this consultation is 19 December 2014

Please complete the questionnaire online at www.ealing.gov.uk/consultations. Your views are important. You may alternatively return your completed questionnaire using the envelope provided.

Highways

Other Options Considered

There were various alternative options which we considered not to be feasible when we considered them. These included:

Enforcement of the existing ‘No motor vehicles except Access’ restriction

Unfortunately it is not possible for us to collect the evidence which we would require to enforce the current access only restriction. We have investigated the enforcement of the current restrictions in detail: the only way we identified of being able to enforce the current restrictions is to shrink them to a small area near the current one way. This would put most of the local residents outside of the restricted area, meaning they also would not be permitted to travel through it. People may consider this to be unclear and entrapping drivers into committing offences. As this would in effect operate in the same way as a physical road closure, but with additional complications, we do not consider this to be a feasible option.

Introduce a 7.5T weight restriction

We would need to provide an exemption for larger vehicles to access the roads for deliveries and loading - this would present similar enforcement difficulties to the current no motor vehicle restriction. A weight restriction would only target a small proportion of through traffic on the road.

Introduce width restrictions

These would stop larger vehicles from travelling through the road, however, it would not target the main issue of cars and smaller vans rat running. Even when well signed, width restrictions can cause issues with large vehicles getting stuck at the end of the road and causing congestion/damage when turning or reversing back out of the road.

Replace the existing ‘except access’ restriction with no access during peak hours

Due to the no Entry restrictions at the other end of the roads this would leave residents with no access into the road during enforcement hours. This option would not target the problem of overnight traffic.

Replace the ‘No motor vehicle’ restriction with a ‘No Entry’ restriction

Providing ‘No Entry except access’ may provide a clearer message than the existing signage. Unfortunately, the Council is not able to use this combination of signs as it is not permitted by government regulations.

Use a rising activated by resident pass in place of a road closure

This would allow access for residents to be maintained. However, this system would have ongoing running costs which would need to be covered by the cost of permits. The severance created by shutting the roads is not great enough to create the demand for people to pay a subscription fee to use the barrier.

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The responses to the questionnaire enclosed will be analysed and reported to your ward councillors. Taking into account the responses of residents a decision will be taken regarding implementation of the scheme.

If you have any queries please contact Highway Services on 020 8825 5000 or HighwayServices@ealing.gov.uk

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Background

We recently completed works throughout Acton Town Centre. This included banning turning movements at the Uxbridge Road / Gunnersbury lane junction in order to allow pedestrian green man crossing to be introduced and congestion at the junction to be reduced.

There were concerns that banning the left turn from Gunnersbury Lane into Uxbridge Road would increase the through traffic on Denehurst Gardens.

These residential roads already had a history of through traffic problems being caused by drivers seeking an alternative to congestion at the Gunnersbury Lane / Uxbridge Road junction.

Although the Council recognised the issues presented by the proposals to local residents, we proceeded with the scheme due to the significant benefits it provided to the wider area. However, we did commit to undertaking this consultation after the scheme was complete to give residents the option of a permanent solution to through traffic issues on their road.

Proposed Measures

We propose to place a barrier at the existing one way restriction on Denehurst Gardens near Uxbridge Road. This would mean the only motor exit from Denehurst Gardens would be via Gunnersbury Lane, cycle access would be unaffected. To provide space for turning vehicles, the stop and shop bay at the north end of Denehurst Gardens would be moved 5m south.

The advantages of this proposal are:
• All through traffic and the associated congestion, noise, pollution and damage to parked vehicles would be stopped.
• The substantial reduction in traffic would make the road safer, quieter and more appealing for residents.

The disadvantage of this proposal is that Denehurst Gardens would only be accessible from Gunnersbury Lane. This would mean undertaking a U-Turn at the Steyne Road roundabout if travelling to Uxbridge Road.

Traffic Surveys

The surveys we undertook in November 2011 confirmed that the left turn from Gunnersbury Lane into Uxbridge Road had relatively low traffic flows of 40 vehicles per peak hour. Although Denehurst Gardens was already subject to relatively high flow of approximately 200 vehicles per hour we hoped that in conjunction with the ‘no motor vehicles except access’ signs which were installed that the increase in traffic would be small.

We completed new after surveys in September 2014 to confirm the impact of the proposal on traffic volumes on the roads. The following graph compares the before and after hourly flows throughout the busiest days recorded surveys.

The total number of vehicles travelling on Denehurst Gardens has increased moderately by 12% from 1949 to 2187 vehicles throughout the busiest survey day.
Consultation Questionnaire
Proposed closure of Denehurst Gardens to through traffic

Please fill in this questionnaire and return it in the prepaid envelope provided by 19 December 2014.

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

1. Are you responding as a… (please select one answer only)
   ○ Resident  ○ Business  ○ Both

2. Are you in favour of replacing the existing one way restriction with a physical road closure?
   ○ Yes  ○ No

3. Please provide any further comments in the box below

______________________________________________________________

Thank you for filling in this questionnaire.
Please return your questionnaire in the prepaid envelope provided to:
Highways Service, Ealing Council, 1st Floor Perceval House,
14/16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing W5 2HL.

We need your comments by 19 December 2014.
Thank you for your help.