

Lewisham Cyclists (LC) response to Royal Borough of Greenwich consultation on Blackheath Gate improvements (April 2019) final version

Lewisham Cyclists are supportive of this scheme as it improves this junction for Quietway 1 and alleviates the hazards for pedestrians and cyclists from motorised traffic in the area. However we have the following concerns about it as currently specified:

Greenwich Park is currently closed during the night – this significantly reduces the amenity of this route as it will not be accessible when the park is closed. Given the stated intent of Quietways to enable those who are less confident to cycle, this is a significant flaw in the current route alignment/scheme. Assuming the alternative routing is going to be via Crooms Hill the northbound alternative route needs to be facilitated as the section of Charlton Way leading to Crooms Hill is currently one way eastbound.

Making the western section of Charlton Way (travelling eastbound) bus, coach and bicycle only (with appropriate enforcement and signage) would significantly reduce the vehicular hazards at this junction.

The eastern section of Charlton Way needs a restriction to prevent long vehicles inadvertently entering the section travelling westbound. This could be a width restriction at the traffic light controlled junction with Maze Hill.

The two-way cycle track along Duke Humphrey St should have adequate width for future increased usage and meet London Cycling Design Standards (LCDS). We would suggest a 3.5m track would be suitable.

Bollard spacing should be 1.5m along the line of the cycle track on Duke Humphrey Road, at both the north and south ends, to enable a wide range of cycles to access the scheme.

The current toucan crossing over Shooters Hill Road, should be widened, preferably with separate sections for cyclists and pedestrians, with a longer crossing phase and shorter waiting times for these users.

The shared path on the Blackheath side of the toucan crossing should be widened/splayed for a few metres to remove the current observed bottleneck.

We would also advocate that through motor traffic should be no longer allowed through Greenwich Park, as currently happens during the weekdays peak hours. Removing through motor traffic from the park would further increase the quality of this scheme and the Quietway. This would also have considerable benefits in the Park and to the proposed Greenwich Town Centre Liveable Neighbourhood scheme.

Tim Collingridge (LC Secretary) 16/4/19

Lewisham Cyclists (The London Cycling Campaign group for Lewisham Borough)
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