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## Greenwich Town Centre Pedestrianisation



Greenwich Council is planning a scheme to pedestrianise Greenwich Town Centre. The scheme might also improve traffic flows, and hence reduce congestion and air pollution which is a major problem in this area. They did some consultation on various options six months ago, and are now consulting on the final proposals. The roads to be closed would be College Approach and King William Walk (see photo of the latter above, where multiple buses halted at the bus stop often cause congestion). Nelson Road would be made two-way with a giant circulatory system introduced around Greenwich High Road, Norman Road and Creek Road. See map below for the new arrangement.



The cost of the first phase of the scheme, which is the introduction of the new traffic arrangements, is about £3.5 million and it is hoped to get it introduced before the end of 2011. Funding from Transport for London has apparently already been obtained for this. The enhancement of the pedestrianised roads and improvements to Cutty Sark Gardens to improve the amenities and visual appearance might take longer and cost another million or more.



According to a council spokesman, “under normal conditions, traffic flows will be improved”. At present, long delays tend to occur on Creek Road where it meets Greenwich Church Street (see photo above) and on Nelson Road, particularly during rush hours. The council has done traffic simulations using computerised models and they say that the new arrangements “are expected to operate satisfactorily without excessive congestion or long delays”. That does not mean that there will not be problems during rush hours or if the Blackwall Tunnel is closed! They even had visual displays of traffic flows at the exhibition they ran for this scheme.

Bus routes are obviously having to be considerably changed, and there still remains a problem with the 199 route for which a solution is still being worked on.

*(Comments: This looks to be a good scheme, even though it is expensive. It may enhance the attractiveness of the town centre, and should not apparently make traffic congestion any worse – it might even improve it. The only slight concern is the use of contraflow cycle lanes on some of the roads. In general I am favour of this proposal, but if anyone else has views on this proposal then please let me know).*

For more information and to submit your own comments, go to the council web site at: [www.greenwich.gov.uk/Greenwich/YourCouncil/HaveYourSay/GreenwichTownCentre.htm](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/Greenwich/YourCouncil/HaveYourSay/GreenwichTownCentre.htm) (but the consultation ends on 15<sup>th</sup> July).

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