

Public Consultation Summary

Following stakeholders' consultation in August 2013, a public consultation was carried out from 9th to 27th September 2013 on the concept design proposals to encourage lower vehicle speeds and to improve accessibility on B197 Mardley Hill / London road, Woolmer Green.

Of the approximate **610** properties consulted a total of **129** responses (approx. 21%) were received in form of questionnaires, emails, letters, telephone calls, and online responses via hertsdirect website. **111** of those were found in favour of the scheme proposals which make **86%** of the total responses. **Table 1** provides overall summary of all of the responses received during the consultation.

Table 1: Overall summary of public consultation responses

Overall summary of all responses (Total received = 129)						
Proposal \ Response	in Favour	Against	Other*	% in favour	% Against	% Other
Area 1	112	11	6	87%	9%	5%
Area 2	108	12	9	84%	9%	7%
Area 3	100	20	9	78%	16%	7%
Area 4	108	12	9	84%	9%	7%
Area 5	111	11	7	86%	9%	5%
Waiting restrictions	108	11	10	84%	9%	8%
Removal of parking bay	105	18	6	81%	14%	5%
All Proposals (in general)	111	12	6	86%	9%	5%

* Other includes those who are either unsure and have not specified their preference or have given a partial support to the proposal

Proposals

The concept design proposals were separated into five different areas and two additional proposals as shown below:

1. Area 1 - Northbound entry to the village
2. Area 2 - Woolmer Green School and Mardleybury Road junction
3. Area 3 - Zebra crossing and Bridge Road junction
4. Area 4 – Knebworth Care Home
5. Area 5 - Southbound entry to the village

Additional Proposals:

6. Proposed 'No Waiting At Any Time' Restrictions
7. Proposed removal of parking to improve road safety

Area 1 - Northbound entry to the village

Footway build-outs are proposed on both sides of the road approximately 40m north of the railway bridge to create road narrowing presented in the form of a gateway entry to the village.

Area 2 - Woolmer Green School and Mardleybury Road junction

Footway build-outs are proposed to narrow the road and also to shelter the existing parking on the western side. The central hatch marking would need to be removed at this location. Carriageway edge markings are proposed instead to create visual narrowing of road. Existing road markings are proposed to be refreshed at Mardleybury Road junction. The eastern footway on B197 from Mardleybury Road junction to Woolmer Green School is proposed to be widened using minor kerb alterations.

Area 3 - Zebra crossing and Bridge Road junction

Footway build-outs are proposed on both sides of the road in order to narrow the carriageway to approximately 7.1m. This would widen the footways on both sides and would also create deflection in the road in order to reduce speeds. Central hatch and the right turn lane for Bridge Road will need to be removed. Some carriageway edge markings are proposed to create visual narrowing of road. Dropped kerb crossing points (un-signalised) are proposed on the either side of the junction. Two bus stops in this area are proposed to be provided with easy access kerbs and refreshed bus cage markings. The southbound bus stop in this area is proposed to be relocated approximately 25m to the north of its existing location in order to provide a wider waiting area.

Area 4 – Knebworth Care Home

Footway build-outs are proposed on both sides of the road opposite Knebworth Care Home with a proposed dropped kerb crossing point (un-signalised) near the existing footpath between London Road and Longmead. The existing bus stops in the area are proposed to be provided with easy access kerbs and refreshed bus cage markings. The southbound bus stop is proposed to be relocated to a suitable location approximately 45m to the south of its original location.

Area 5 - Southbound entry to the village

Footway build-outs are proposed on both sides of the road to the north of the Entech House with signs and road markings presented in the form of a gateway entry to the village.

Additional Proposals

Proposed 'No Waiting At Any Time' Restrictions

In addition to the above proposals, following discussions with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council 'No waiting at any time' parking restrictions indicated by double yellow lines are proposed at the junctions of B197 London Road with Mardleybury Road, New Road, Wolves Mere and Bridge Road in order to prevent dangerous parking at these junctions. The same restrictions are proposed at the junctions of Bridge Road with Hall Lane and Longmead.

Proposed removal of parking to improve road safety

The existing parking bay on the south-eastern side of the Zebra crossing in Area 3 is proposed to be removed. This is required in order to improve road safety by improving visibility at the New Road junction and at the Zebra crossing.

The additional proposals relating to parking were included within the scheme for coordination purposes but would not affect the delivery of the main proposals to encourage lower vehicle speeds, which are listed above within the headings Area 1 to Area 5.