

A Greener, Safer & Easier London Road

What is the consultation about?

This is a first consultation on how London Road can be improved in Stone, especially for walkers and cyclists. The proposals set out here seek to provide a more pleasant environment but maintains a two-way flow of traffic along the carriageway.

Working with Stone Parish Council and Kent County Council, Dartford Borough Council has started discussions on how London Road could change and are now seeking to involve the local community in these discussions. Kent County Council, as local highway authority, are responsible for the road.



The red line shows the extent of the study area: Cotton Lane to St Clements Roundabout.

Where are we talking about, and why?

This is about the London Road (A226) between the Cotton Lane junction and the St Clements Roundabout. This is 1.3 miles (2.2 km) long.

A study conducted by Dartford Borough Council (and as required by government), identified this section of London Road as a good location to achieve improvements for walking, cycling and wheeling. This is because the route has wide sections of 'spare space' on the edges of the road that could be put to better use. It also connects up the schools, shops, community services and jobs in Stone and beyond.

The Neighbourhood Plan for Stone - produced by the local community and agreed by a vote of the community in 2022 - supports introducing a green corridor along London Road.

What's the aim?

The aim is to explore how to bring health and environmental benefits (like reducing congestion, air and noise pollution) to London Road, making it safer to walk and cycle whilst at the same time making it more attractive.

Walking, cycling or wheeling (using a wheelchair, mobility aid or scooter) helps us stay healthy. We're hoping to make improvements that would make these options easier and safer for all.

The purpose of this consultation is to get your views on how we can make London Road greener, safer and easier for everyone to use. At this early stage, there are a range of possible options if London Road is to be improved. No changes have been prepared in full detail, or agreed.

This consultation will decide whether Dartford Borough and Kent County Councils look further into any proposals.



Indicative cross section, as proposed at the location outside Stone Recreation Ground. This shows the segregated cycle lanes (2.3 metres and 2 metres wide each), as well as the indicative planting strip between the cycle lane and the carriageway.

What may change on London Road?

Initial analysis of London Road suggests there could be potential for:



New cycle lanes and footways continuously along the whole length and on both sides of the road. This can provide safe and appealing direct routes for healthier and greener forms of travel. All cycle lanes, footways and highway lanes can be segregated to avoid conflicts with vehicles, pedestrians or other cyclists. It could provide an alternative travel option to using the car for local journeys.



Extra crossings for pedestrians and cyclists across London Road, helping Stone residents, especially more vulnerable people.



New green landscaping. Plants and trees can absorb air pollution, and help address climate change and manage flood risk. The landscaping can provide a more attractive local setting, and may help reduce noise.



London Road could potentially become a 30mph road along the length of this stretch. This is a more typical speed when passing through residential communities. Currently there are sections of London Road that have a 30mph speed limit, with some sections going up to 40mph. Equalising this would create consistency for drivers, and greater safety for all.



Clear identification of dedicated spaces for parking along the street and for bus stops. The number of bus stops and legal parking spaces is currently expected to be maintained. Designing the highway to have clearly marked out spaces will help deal with problems such as inappropriate lorry parking.

This kind of specially designed road environment with segregated cycle lanes and types of junctions, would be new to the Dartford Borough and we are keen to hear all views.



Indicative cross section as proposed at the stretch of London Road near Sandpiper Close. It shows the segregated cycle lane and walkway, each at 2 metres wide in each direction. On the left hand side (north) there is also an indicative greening strip and a 2 metre parking bay with a 1.1 metre wide pavement to allow for safe access to the vehicles.

What am I being asked?

This is only a first consultation, so your thoughts are sought on how to make London Road in Stone greener, safer and easier for all to use.

Images shown here are illustrative drafts only and will inevitably change. Comments are sought on the changes that you think may be required, and the features currently shown that may be particularly welcome.

All views on the aims and ideas shown above are welcome, whether you're a local resident or someone who uses London Road. Local views will lead to Dartford Borough Council's decision on what to do next.

You can scan the QR code to complete the questionnaire by **Friday December 20 at 5pm**. This asks about the opportunities and challenges of using and living near the London Road.



How will my views be used?

Consultation comments will be closely examined, and local views and suggestions assessed by Dartford Borough Council. Your say will influence whether the project advances, and if so, how.

If we proceed, significant technical work would be required, therefore this will only happen if there is general support for improving London Road.

At present there is no timescale for any changes, or a budget in place. If clear public support is shown for the general principles of pedestrian and cycle improvements, this would increase the likelihood of gaining funding from government for further design work and testing the delivery of a greener, safer and easier London Road.

The consultation runs until Friday, December 20 at 5pm.
You can also email active.travel@dartford.gov.uk