



Public Consultation The Narrow Way (Mare Street)

October 2015

have  say

 **Hackney**

Why are we proposing improvements to the Narrow Way?

The Narrow Way is the retail heartland of Hackney Central. It is widely used by the community and has a rich cultural and architectural identity.

To help fulfil its potential and improve the look and feel of the street, the Council is proposing to create a more attractive, social, accessible and functional public space, which will bring long-lasting benefits for residents and businesses.

The Narrow Way is valued for its vibrant diversity and we aim to enhance this by creating an inclusive street and destination where the local community and visitors can come to meet, socialise and explore. We also want to encourage more families to come to the Narrow Way by creating a child-friendly environment and providing spaces for events and activities for children and families.

The new proposals seek to draw more footfall from Hackney Central Station to help support local businesses. The design will create a more flexible and adaptable public space, and walking and cycling through the area will be made better and safer.



Visualisation of the Mare Street/Amhurst Road junction of the Narrow Way facing Hackney Central station.

What are the proposals to improve the Narrow Way?

The planned improvements extend the full length of the Narrow Way, from the Graham Road/Mare Street junction in the south, to Clarence Road in the north.

The proposals seek to:

- Remove the existing conventional road layout and replace it with a new, accessible pedestrian friendly street.
- Simplify the street by removing the current clutter and providing new seating and cycle parking.

- Create new public spaces that are flexible and adaptable, and will allow for events and other activities to be hosted.
- Plant more trees which will support a sustainable drainage system.
- Install improved CCTV coverage throughout the area.

The following sections provide more detail on the Council's proposals for each part of the Narrow Way.

Southern entrance and Hackney Central station

The junction of Mare Street/Amhurst Road is one of the main entrances to the Narrow Way and the link to Hackney Central station.

The emphasis will be to create a pedestrian- and cycle-friendly environment that is less car-dominated.

The Council wants to:

- Extend the look and feel of the new Narrow Way to the junction of Graham Road in order to better connect it with central Hackney and emphasise the priority of pedestrians in this space.

- Provide a new wider signalised pedestrian crossing, closer to the junction of Amhurst Road and Mare Street.
- Introduce a new, uncontrolled crossing in Mare Street linking to Tesco car park, which will help create a safer environment with slower speeds.
- Increase cycle parking to meet the high demands from Hackney Central Station and shops.

The Council is also exploring alternative layouts for this junction, however these need further assessment.



Visualisation of St Augustine's Tower from the southern junction of the Narrow Way.

St Augustine's Tower and St John at Hackney Churchyard Gardens

This area is both architecturally and historically significant and is the main link from the Narrow Way into the green spaces of the churchyard.

The proposed design will integrate the existing historic paving and features with the creation of a new public square for events and other activities.

The Council wants to:

- Create a new square with steps for informal, south-facing seating, and to draw people towards the tower and churchyard.
- Add new seating areas and trees to bring the greenery and calm of the churchyard into the Narrow Way.
- Investigate planting a community garden in the area south of the new square.
- Extend the grass area on the northern side of the old town hall into the Narrow Way and build new steps.

THE NARROW WAY, HACKNEY ILLUSTRATIVE PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS



impaired pedestrians

into the Narrow Way
with improved step
access

Additional trees
incorporating
sustainable drainage
systems

New public square for
events and activities

Potential location for
community garden

Improved pedestrian
crossing

Improved accessibility
for cyclists

Increased cycle parking
provision across
whole area



KEY

- Public realm improvements
- Granite carpets
- Lighting columns
- Proposed trees
- Existing buildings
- Existing green areas

Narrow Way between St Augustine's Tower and Dalston Lane

This is the central section of the Narrow Way with a variety of shops and businesses.

The Council wants to:

- Remove the central carriageway and replace it with a single-level, pedestrian friendly surface.
- Install clusters of street furniture in areas defined by different surface materials. These are referred to as “granite carpets” on the plans and would be adaptable spaces that could be used for a variety of purposes. Please see visualisation for an example of a possible layout.
- Plant additional trees.
- Provide new seating and cycle parking.
- Replace the existing disabled parking bay in the Narrow Way with two new disabled bays at the junction with Kenmure Road.



Visualisation of the Narrow Way at the junction with Kenmure Road.

Northern entrance and Clarence Road

The shops along Clarence Road have traditionally been an extension of the shopping areas on the Narrow Way. However, the recent road layouts have led to the separation of the two high streets.

The Council wants to:

- Create new seating.
 - Provide more cycle parking.
 - Plant additional trees.
- Transport for London (TfL) is proposing a new design for the junction of Lower Clapton Road and Urswick Road which aims to create a low-speed environment, pedestrian-friendly space. TfL will be consulting soon.
- Please visit <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk> for further information.
- Reconnect Clarence Road with the Narrow Way.
 - Extend the look and feel of the Narrow Way into Clarence Road and create a raised junction with an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing.



Visualisation of the junction of Dalston Lane and Lower Clapton Road.

Loading/unloading

The Narrow Way is currently a pedestrian zone with loading permitted between 4pm and 10am Monday to Saturday and all day Sunday. Safe and considerate cycling is permitted at all times.

The Council wants to change the times that loading is allowed to ensure the space is pedestrian-friendly.

The Council wants to:

Allow loading between 6pm and 10am every day. There will be no designated loading bays, instead, loading will be permitted where it is safe and sensible. No waiting will be permitted at any time. CCTV enforcement will be in place to enforce these restrictions.

Cycling

There is currently a perceived conflict between cyclists and pedestrians on the Narrow Way. To address this, the design aims to encourage slower, safer and more considerate cycling.

The new layout seeks to:

- Allow direct cycle access to the Narrow Way at the Clarence Road junction.
- Create more space for cyclists at the junction with Amhurst Road and create a slower vehicle-speed environment.
- Provide more cycle parking along the full length of the Narrow Way with a concentration of parking at the southern end of the scheme to cater for higher demands.



Possible example of adaptable spaces defined on the plans as "granite carpets".

Lighting

In addition to providing functional lighting, the Council is exploring lighting that will make people and activities the focal point. The Council is working with lighting specialists to

develop innovative and energy efficient lighting that will help support night-time activity on the Narrow Way and enhance the look and feel of the street.



Night-time visualisation of the Narrow Way facing St. Augustine's Tower.



Night-time visualisation of the Narrow Way at the junction with Kenmure Road.

How to give your views?

This document sets out Hackney Council's proposed improvements for the Narrow Way. Your views are very important in the Council's decision-making process.

Please read through the information in this document and complete the questionnaire online at **consultation.hackney.gov.uk** or return the attached questionnaire by following the postage instructions by **30 November 2015**.

Please visit **consultation.hackney.gov.uk** for more information, detailed plans and dates of drop-in sessions where you can discuss the plans with Council officers.

What happens next?

Your views will be taken into account as part of the detailed design process. Work is expected to commence in summer 2016 with completion by summer 2017.

Residents and businesses will be informed of any changes to construction dates and an additional notification document will be sent out before the works start, detailing temporary traffic management measures that may be necessary to facilitate construction.

Thank you for taking time to reply to this consultation.