

Nunhead Streets for People newsletter

May 2023

What is 'Streets for People'?

Streets for People is the council's initiative, working with residents and businesses across Southwark, to improve the streets of the borough for people, not cars.

We've been making important changes that will:

- improve air quality and reduce emissions that cause climate change
- support healthy travel options like walking or cycling for short journeys
- create safer streets with less traffic and fewer accidents
- allow better use of your streets for you to enjoy

Polluting vehicles contribute to nearly half of the air pollution in London and so we are taking measures to clean up our air – something you have told us is important to you.

Why are you planning to make changes in Nunhead?

We have plans to extend parking permits to cover the whole borough over the coming year. This is not a new approach but something we set out in our 2019 Local Implementation Plan, which we consulted extensively on at the time (over 1,000 residents responded to our survey). Most of Southwark already has a parking permit system in place, and the benefits include:

- Creating a safer and more attractive environment for those using the streets.
- Making it more appealing and safe for local people to walk, use public transport and cycle
- Creating space for improvements to your street like cycle parking, EV charging points and more trees/green space
- Any income helps to improve local streets and keep them in good condition
- Reducing traffic by reducing people driving into Southwark
- Prioritising parking for local people and businesses

What benefits could we see locally?

We will work with local people to design the changes you want to see. In other areas we have planted more trees, widened pavements, installed cycle hangars and improved cycling routes. We want to hear your ideas for these improvements. We know in Nunhead there is already local support for more road crossings. The measures we would complete early in the scheme would include new crossings over Evelina Road, next to Kimberley Avenue; a crossing next to Nunhead station across Gibbon Road; and a crossing on Lausanne Road (working with Lewisham Council). We will also deliver a new cycleway on the east side of Peckham Rye Park. We have completed a feasibility study for this cycleway and will be consulting on its design this summer.

What questions is the council asking?

We would like to hear your thoughts on when local parking permits should operate. Some areas in the borough prefer a zone that operates for two hours a day to prevent commuter journeys, but reduce the amount of time that their visitors would have to pay for permits. Other areas prefer longer operating hours but we want to work with you to find the right approach for Nunhead.

The reduction of on-street parking gives us the opportunity to implement other improvements in the area such as cycle hangars, EV charging or tree planting. We've asked you about what you would like to see in your area and if there is anything else to consider when we look at your local roads.

What if local people don't want this change?

Local people have repeatedly told the council that they want us to improve air quality, address the climate emergency, and make our borough even greener and safer. Introducing permits is an essential part of us achieving these things, and permit schemes have proven to be very successful in other parts of the borough. Over time, residents find the benefits greatly outweigh a cost of £4.32 a week for most vehicles. However, we do want to work with Nunhead residents to get this right, which is why we are consulting on the design of the scheme.

How have other residents found the change?

We have received many testimonials from residents after parking permit systems have been implemented, who were initially anxious or unhappy about the plans, but soon felt the benefits. Comments from Camberwell residents include:

"I am writing to say how delighted we are with the controlled parking zone (CPZ), and to apologise for the resistance to your plan from everyone in this house. It's literally transformed the street – we very seldom use the car but when we do we can park without any difficulty at all and the street is now an open and peaceful place to live."

"The environmental improvement is huge and an important boost to city living. Now that we have the CPZ in operation our streetscape has been transformed. We can park without difficulty and the appearance of the area has changed beyond recognition."

How much will parking cost?

For the average ULEZ compliant vehicle, permits cost £4.32 per week. Hybrid vehicles cost £2.88 and electric vehicles cost £1.44 per week.

Disabled badge holder's permits cost 57p per week with free parking for Blue Badge holders in certain bays.

Visitor permit prices vary with full details on our website. Outside of the permit operating hours, your visitors may park for free.

For businesses, we can explore putting in short stay free bays to accommodate customers. When the permit scheme is not in operation, some free parking will be available.

What will the council do with the income?

The income received from permits is used to fund the initial set up, operation and enforcement of the scheme. Any surplus income is used to support our work on improving air quality and road safety and tackling the climate emergency, including funding local improvement schemes that residents have asked for but we have not been able to implement due to cuts in council funding. This could include pedestrian crossings, cycle storage, traffic calming, speed reduction measures, green areas, seating and much more. That is why it is important you tell us what you would like to see on your streets.

How can I have my say?

We recently held a drop-in event that was well-attended, and the consultation is currently open at www.southwark.gov.uk/nunheadcpz2023

Given the amount of interest in these plans, we have decided to extend the consultation until Friday 9 June. Once the feedback has been considered, detailed plans will be developed based on your feedback, and a second, statutory consultation will be held in October.