

# Balfour Street Summary Report

## Junction Tables Survey Balfour Street Improvement Scheme

April 2019

# Introduction

This report has been produced by the London Borough of Southwark Highways team to provide a summary on the survey of local residents on a proposed amendment to the approved design of the Balfour Street Improvements scheme.

Balfour Street is located in the East Walworth Ward.

The construction of the approved design for the junction tables at John Maurice Close, Henshaw Street and Chatham Street were determined to results in significant disruption to the residents on these streets.

Residents were given two options to choose from:

## Option A – Full block work tables

(Applying to John Maurice Close, Henshaw Street and Chatham Street junctions with Balfour Street only)

This option was consulted on in 2017 and consists of raising the junctions, similar to the existing junction on Balfour Street with Chatham Street, with the surface material being made from blocks and the ramps made from standard tarmac road surface.

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long term benefits for the community, further reducing vehicle speeds, by enhancing the pedestrian character of the street and complimenting the footway improvements already made to date.</li><li>• Access to Chatham Street can be maintained via an alternative route.</li><li>• Alternative access to John Maurice Close could be achieved by making temporary access via the Searles Road end (subject to further negotiation).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum 4 week construction period for Henshaw Street, 4 weeks for Chatham Street, and 6 week construction period for John Maurice Close.</li><li>• Vehicles will be prohibited from entering and exiting John Maurice Close and Henshaw Street during the construction period, as noted above.</li></ul>

## Option B – Asphalt tables

(Applying to John Maurice Close, Henshaw Street and Chatham Street junctions with Balfour Street only)

This option consists of raising the junctions, similar to the existing junction on Balfour Street with Chatham Street, with the surface material being made of standard tarmac road surface, but includes a banding of blockwork at either end of the raised area. The ramps will be made from standard tarmac road surface, as per Option A.

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approximate 2-3 week construction period for Henshaw and 2-3 weeks Chatham Streets, and 3-4 weeks for John Maurice Close.</li><li>• Vehicle access maintained at all times during construction (except 1-2 days of night works to complete the works, when there will be no access in or out - <u>at night only</u>).</li><li>• Reduced timeframe for traffic diversions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long term benefits for the community, further reducing vehicle speeds by enhancing the pedestrian character of the street and complimenting the footway improvements already made to date, will not be achieved.</li></ul>

A survey on these proposals took place from 18 March to 31 March 2019. All residents within the survey area were invited to choose one Option and tell us what impact these options would have on the.

## Survey Process

The views of the local community were sought as part of this survey. A letter was posted to all Southwark addresses within the survey area and distributed to local residents from a maintained email list.

The distribution area was large enough to gain views from the wider community that may be considered to be affected by the proposed measures.

A copy of the letter is appended. (Appendix A)

Residents were advised to respond to the survey via the online consultation portal. They were also given an email address by which to respond.

8 copies of the survey form were mailed to residents identified by the local TRA as not having access to emails.

Public access to the online form was removed at the end of the survey period.

# Summary of Survey Results

## Survey Returns and Response Rate

The survey closed on 31 March 2019. Public access to the online portal was removed at midnight on this date.

A total of **72** online responses were received during the survey period.

Question 1: What is your preferred option for the raised junctions on Henshaw Street and John Maurice Close?  
(respondents could select only one answer)

### Balfour St, John Maurice Close and Henshaw Street

Total Responses - 40

Option A	Option B
38%	63%

### Surrounding Streets

Total Responses - 32

Option A	Option B
84%	22%

Question 2: Please share your thoughts on how each option could affect you.

Below is a summary of the feedback. Please note that the feedback has been modified to ensure the resident's responses remain anonymous.

### Balfour St, John Maurice Close and Henshaw Street

#### Option A -

Aesthetic; short delay for long term gain; safer for families, pedestrians and cyclists.

#### Option B –

Delivery of groceries for less abled; need of vehicles for work/commuting; Access for cars for district nurse visits; elderly with mobility issue requiring hospital appointments; parking congestion; quickest; elderly and need car to live life with regards to shopping and hospital appointments; need ambulance service; hard to understand layout of Option A; issues getting to work; risk of theft parking on the street; cost.

### Surrounding Streets

#### Option A -

Aesthetic; short delay for long term gain.

#### Option B –

Cost; maintenance; a lot of older people who need cabs, dial a ride, hospital transport etc.; not necessary.

## Recommendations

Southwark council is committed to ensuring all our schemes are consistent with our Transport Plan 2011 and Draft Kerbside Strategy, whilst also ensuring our obligations under the Equalities Act 2010 are met. When assessing responses to the survey we have given greater weighting to those residents with disabilities and those who live on Balfour Street, Henshaw Street, or John Maurice Close.

Considering all the comments we received from residents the Highways team is recommending proceeding with Option B (asphalt tables).

## APPENDIX A: Letter sent to residents

Dear Resident,

### Balfour Street Improvement Scheme Update

Improvements to the road and pavements on Balfour Street began in October 2018. The aim of the scheme is to make Balfour Street and surrounding roads safer, more accessible and more attractive for all road users. Works have been progressing well and are currently on schedule to be completed by autumn 2019.

The works are now entering the most challenging phases of the project that are likely to cause the most amount of disruption. These next phases of work involve implementing the junction improvements to Orb St, Stead St, Wadding St, Balfour St/Rodney Road, Chatham St, Henshaw St and John Maurice Close/Victory Place.

In order to implement the works Henshaw Street and John Maurice Close/Victory Place will be closed to vehicles at all times for a minimum of 4 and 6 weeks respectfully. In addition, various traffic diversions will be in place and the temporary suspension of car parking bays on surrounding streets will be required in order to complete the remaining works.

These works are likely to cause significant disruption to residents, therefore we are proposing an alternative option that will maintain vehicle access into John Maurice Close/Victory Place and Henshaw Street, but will significantly alter the aesthetic of the scheme and reduce the effectiveness in creating a more pedestrian friendly street character.

In order to better understand the impact these works may have on you and to share your thoughts on the options available to minimise the impact please complete our online form at <https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/environment-leisure/balfour-street>.

The online form will be available from Monday 11 March and will close on Sunday 24 March 2019.

Results will be posted online at [www.southwark.gov.uk/balfourstreet](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/balfourstreet) by 29 March 2019.

We also invite you along to a drop-in session on **Wednesday 20 March 2019, 6.30pm – 8pm**, at the Balfour Street Housing Project, 67 Balfour Street, SE17 1PL, where Council officers will be available to answer questions.

Please ensure you either visit the website or attend the drop-in session, and fill in the online feedback form to ensure your concerns and feedback on the preferred options is considered.

If you require a paper copy of the online form and further information, please contact me on the details above.

Yours Faithfully,

Alexander Rozema  
Principal Project Manager





This image is indicative only and is meant to give the viewer an impression of what the final design may look like. The actual design built may differ slightly from what is shown in this image.

BALFOUR STREET  
John Maurice Close Raised Table  
OPTION A





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**BALFOUR STREET**  
**Henshaw Street Raised Table**  
**OPTION A**





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BALFOUR STREET  
John Maurice Close Raised Table  
OPTION B





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**BALFOUR STREET**  
Henshaw Street Raised Table  
OPTION B