Making travel in Camden Safer: Responding to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Supporting businesses to reopen safely across Fitzrovia/Euston Town through Streateries

Dear Resident / Business / Stakeholder Group,

Summary

- We are creating Streateries on Charlotte Street, Goodge Street and Drummond Street to support local businesses to reopen safely, in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- A Streatery is a car free outdoor dining space for restaurants, cafes and other businesses to place tables and chairs
- Creating more outdoor dining space will help people to eat out whilst maintaining social distancing
- To create space for these Streateries we will be making a number of temporary changes including changing road layouts and widening pavements
- These changes are being made alongside a similar scheme being implemented by Westminster City Council.
- The Streatery is a temporary space which will be in place for the remainder of the summer with the possibility for extension
- Work will start from the 14th August to implement these changes
- You can share your comments on these changes via safetravel@camden.gov.uk
- You can find out more about these changes on this website https://www.camden.gov.uk/making-travel-safer-in-camden
- Tell us how you feel about your local high street and how it could be improved to inform our future priorities and projects via https://camdenfuturehighstreets.commonplace.is/

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created new challenges for our local economy. The Council is committed to supporting our local businesses to reopen safely as lock down measures continue to ease. We are working to provide new ways to support and boost our local high streets and town centres whilst keeping them safe and secure for our communities.
Creating Streateries is one of the ways we are supporting businesses to operate differently to ensure they are COVID secure. We are working closely with local Business Improvement Districts and local stakeholders to create a series of Streateries across Camden, in addition to relaxing planning and licensing restrictions in line with government legislation and guidance until the 30th September 2021. Full guidance on these changes can be found on our website. www.camden.gov.uk/business-support.

This letter provides information on the new Charlotte Street, Goodge Street and Drummond Street Streateries including:

- Detail on the changes being made to support the Streateries
- A drawing showing the changes being made
- A drawing showing who we have notified
- Information on how to find out more

What will the Streateries in Fitzrovia/Euston achieve?

A Streatery is a car free outdoor dining space for restaurants, cafes and other businesses to place tables and chairs. Providing more temporary space for these businesses helps customers to physically distance whilst eating/drinking out.

The aim of a Streatery is to help boost hospitality businesses by taking advantage of the remainder of the summer weather (and potentially for a longer period) as the lockdown continues to ease. In order to help the economic recovery of this sector, outdoor dining is expected to support increased customer numbers as sitting inside a premises will be limited due to the need to physically distance.

Creating Streateries across Fitzrovia/Euston would allow cafes and restaurants to serve customers alfresco by adding tables and chairs to the pavement and/or road. The proposal will see physically distanced tables placed outside the businesses, serving food and drinks to customers to boost the local economy.

What are the challenges in these areas?

Charlotte Street is a popular street where numerous cafes and restaurants are located, as well as offices, attracting large numbers of people. The stretch of Charlotte Street between Goodge Street and Percy Street, has about 24 hospitality businesses. A Streatery in this location has been requested by the Fitzroiva BID to create more space for pedestrians to physically distance and businesses to place tables and chairs. Camden will make changes on the eastern side of the road, the western side of the road falls under Westminster City Council and a similar scheme will be put in place.

Goodge Street has several cafes and restaurants with about 13 hospitality businesses between Charlotte Street and Tottenham Court Road. A Streatery in this location was also requested by the Fitzrovia BID.

On Drummond Street a Streatery was requested by the Euston Town BID to be located opposite a number of food and beverage outlets.

In response to the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on road safety in Camden, we used Commonplace (an online engagement tool) to invite people to suggest locations where
new walking and cycling projects might be needed to help support physical distancing. All three locations were nominated including:

- For Charlotte Street, a number of requests were made for reduced parking, wider footways and road closures, agreed by 2 people.
- For Goodge Street, a number of requests were made for reduced traffic and traffic speeds, agreed by 16 people.
- For Drummond Street, a number of requests were made for reduced parking and wider footways, agreed by 26 people.

This Commonplace tool is now closed but you can read the comments made on the website. [https://camdensafetravel.commonplace.is/](https://camdensafetravel.commonplace.is/)

The creation of Streateries in these areas, therefore would respond to the impacts of Coronavirus (COVID-19) by providing more space for people to physically distance and more space for businesses to bring in customers.

**How else are we responding to Coronavirus (COVID-19)?**

Creating local Streateries is one way in which the council is responding to the impacts of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and is part of a wider range of measures which are being put in place to make travel in Camden Safer. You can find out more about these changes on our website [https://www.camden.gov.uk/making-travel-safer-in-camden](https://www.camden.gov.uk/making-travel-safer-in-camden).

**New flexibilities for businesses**

New legislation passed by the Government makes it easier for cafes, restaurants, pubs and bars to apply for a pavement licence to use their immediate outdoor space to seat and serve customers. You can apply for an outdoor pavement licence at [https://www.camden.gov.uk/pavement-licensing](https://www.camden.gov.uk/pavement-licensing). You can also find all the latest information on the support available to businesses on our dedicated webpages [www.camden.gov.uk/business-support](http://www.camden.gov.uk/business-support).

**Looking to the future of High Streets**

As part of our longer term renewal efforts, we’re establishing a Camden Renewal Commission – bringing together partners from across different sectors and organisations to work on a set of missions to renew our high streets and town centres. We want Camden’s high streets to be ready to face the future, so we’ve launched a new online engagement tool (Commonplace) where you can let us know how you feel about your local high street and how it could be improved. We will use your comments to inform our priorities and projects. You can have your say at [https://camdenfuturehighstreets.commonplace.is/](https://camdenfuturehighstreets.commonplace.is/)

**What will the work in these locations involve?**

Drawings of all the following changes to create the three Streateries, are included in this letter.
Charlotte Street

The following changes will be implemented from the 15th August 2020:

- Temporarily widen sections of the pavement on the eastern side of Charlotte Street between Goodge Street and Percy Street to create more space for outside dining and pedestrian to physically distance
- Temporarily suspend parking spaces along the eastern side of Charlotte Street between Goodge Street and Percy Street to create more space for outside dining and pedestrian to physically distance. This includes the suspension of the following:
  - Parking spaces outside 2-4, 10-14, 16, 18, 22, 32, 34, 37, 38, and 40-41 Charlotte Street (including 2 electric vehicle bays)
  - The motorcycle parking spaces outside the Fitzroy Tavern
- Temporarily relocate the existing cycle parking stands outside no. 14 (corner of Charlotte Street/ Windmill Street junction) to outside no. 16 on Windmill Street in order to provide adequate passing space for pedestrians
- Temporarily change Charlotte Street between Rathbone Street and Percy Street to one-way street southbound only for motor traffic to reduce the amount of motor traffic and provide a more pleasant dining experience
- Temporarily create a 1.5m wide contra-flow cycle lane on Charlotte Street between Rathbone Street and Percy Street to ensure continued cycle permeability
- Temporarily create dedicated loading space outside no. 24-30 and no. 36 on Charlotte Street. Loading hours will be restricted to 7am – 4pm in order to limit traffic activity during the hours that are likely to be busiest for outdoor dining. No waiting will be allowed between 4pm and 7am.

Goodge Street

The following changes will be implemented from the 17th August 2020:

- Temporarily widen sections of the pavement on each side of Goodge Street between Charlotte Street and Tottenham Court Road to create more space for outside dining and pedestrian to physically distance
- Temporarily suspend parking spaces on each side of Goodge Street between Charlotte Street and Tottenham Court Road to create more space for outside dining and pedestrian to physically distance. This includes the suspension of the following:
  - Parking spaces outside 5-11, 25-29, 26-30 and no. 36 on Goodge Street
- Temporarily relocating existing cycle parking outside nos. 21-23 Goodge Street into the widened space outside no. 8 in order to provide additional passing space for social distancing.
- Temporarily removing one lane of traffic on Goodge Street between Whitfield Street and Tottenham Court Road on the northern side to create a 1.75m wide mandatory cycle lane

- Temporarily providing loading spaces outside Tesco (no. 10-16) and no. 38-40. Loading hours will be restricted to 7am – 4pm in order to limit traffic activity during the hours that are usually busiest for dining. No waiting allowed between 4pm and 7am.

**Drummond Street**

The following changes will be implemented from the 14th August 2020:

- Temporarily widening the pavement on Drummond Street between North Gower Street and Cobourg Street. This will require all parking bays to be suspended to create more space for outside dining and pedestrian to physically distance

- Temporarily providing space for loading on Drummond Street between North Gower Street and Cobourg Street which will be restricted to between 8am and 12pm. Loading bays will be located outside nos. 125-129 and at the end of the parking bay at the eastern end of Drummond Street. This will create more space for outside dining and pedestrian to physically distance

- Temporarily widening the pavement on the northern side of Drummond Street between North Gower Street and Hampstead Road in front of nos. 124-128. Parking bays will be suspended where the footway widening takes place to create more space for outside dining and pedestrian to physically distance

- The disabled parking space outside no. 130 will be retained. Loading activity will be allowed on the southern side of Drummond Street following existing arrangements.

**How can you give your views?**

We know that there is an immediate need for this scheme in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) so we are making these changes as quickly as possible. If you have any concerns or comments on these temporary measures you can get in touch via the details below.

We have already consulted with statutory emergency services on these changes. We are also notifying local residents, businesses and stakeholder groups within the local area and you can see the map of those notified overleaf. You will also see information going up on the local streets and on our website.
Any outdoor seating permitted would still be subject to the granting of the requisite licence(s).

**How can you find out more?**

More information on this scheme, and the other changes we are making across Camden in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on our dedicated website:


Where you can also find:

- The Non- Key Executive Officer Decision report

In the meantime if you have any further questions or comments on the project, please don’t hesitate to get in touch via [safetravel@camden.gov.uk](mailto:safetravel@camden.gov.uk),