Capel Road Crossing update – August 2017

The Council has received some correspondence from residents about the new zebra crossing on Woodford Road, near the junction with Capel Road. As a result, some additional information is therefore provided on the scheme as set out below.

The original proposal as consulted in March 2016 suggested a cycle lane along Capel Road which had some impacts on parking along the street and was not supported by the consultation. As a result a revised proposal was developed which addressed the consultation responses by changing this to an on-street cycle lane with no loss of parking, and with a shared area for cyclists and pedestrians on either side of the new crossing. The new layout that has been constructed on site is shown in this drawing: Capel Road Updated Drawing

The new crossing layout comprises a conventional zebra crossing for pedestrians with an additional parallel crossing for cyclists to use which is marked out by white square markings and cycle markings. Cyclists should remain within these white markings and not use the black and white area where pedestrians are crossing.

Some queries have also been made by residents over the relocation of the crossing to the north side of Capel Road, from its previous location to the south. This was done to provide a more direct crossing over Woodford Road for the east-west cycle Quietway route which runs along Brownlow Road and then along the north side of Capel Road. But, as importantly, the crossing was moved to also provide a more direct connection from Wanstead Flats to the surrounding residential area to the west of Woodford Road, where there is a strong desire line.

This relocation of the crossing was clearly shown in the consultation materials and no objections were received during the consultation. In fact, a number of comments in support of the relocation were received, suggesting that it would make walking journeys for residents easier. In addition, a formal statutory traffic order consultation was undertaken which provided a further opportunity for those with any concerns to formally object to the relocated crossing, and again no such objections were received. The Council therefore proceeded with the relocation on this basis.

Clearly the relocation of the zebra crossing will benefit some, while others will have preferred the previous location, depending on where they are walking from and going to. Those who do have to make an additional road crossing to access the relocated zebra north of Capel Road (eg crossing over Capel Road itself) may consider using the controlled crossing at the junction with Dames Road to cross Woodford Road, which is located some 150m to the south of the relocated crossing.
In addition to the controlled crossing facilities on Woodford Road, the new raised crossing also acts as an effective speed reduction measure to slow vehicles on Woodford Road, making uncontrolled crossings of the road much safer than before, and an informal crossing point has been retained at the location of the former zebra crossing to allow pedestrians to still cross there if they wish. The crossing of Capel Road itself at its junction with Woodford Road has been made much safer by reducing the width of the junction which helps to slow vehicles, and by removing the level differences, which helps those with mobility difficulties and pushchairs/buggies.