

exhibition road newsletter

Issue 1:
March 2010

Keeping you informed

Work starts on Exhibition Road!

On 11 February the main phase of the Exhibition Road project officially kicked off with representatives of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and project funding partners Westminster City Council and Transport for London marking the start of work.

Leaders of the two Councils and Kulveer Ranger, Advisor on Transport to the Mayor's Office, removed the first kerbstone as a symbol of how Exhibition Road will become a single-surface road, designed to reduce traffic congestion and provide residents and visitors with more pedestrian space.



(Left to right) Councillor Merrick Cockell, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Kulveer Ranger, Advisor on Transport to the Mayor's Office, Councillor Colin Barrow, Leader of Westminster City Council.



BOSi 'workmen' entertain the crowd

The crowd were treated to a surprise when performers disguised as workmen suddenly burst into song and dance. The routine, based on the Great Exhibition Polka of 1851, brought Exhibition Road to a standstill.

Even though he couldn't be there himself, the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, commented, 'Every year millions of Londoners and visitors to this great city are drawn to the cornucopia of culture offered on Exhibition Road. The work that begins today will make this incredible part of the capital a space that truly emphasises the world class institutions based there'.

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

Programme

The project will be completed in early 2012, in time for the Olympic Games and Paralympics.

This may seem a long time for one road but this is no ordinary repaving scheme. We will be future-proofing the road against being dug up again for many, many years.

We will be keeping the road open to traffic and pedestrians at all times during construction. We will re-direct vehicles to one side of the road

whilst re-paving the other side and then change over as we complete the whole width of the road as a single surface.

The diagram shows our proposed schedule of paving.

We know road works are noisy and dirty but we promise to make every effort to keep disruption to a minimum. We will not be working at night unless it is absolutely necessary.

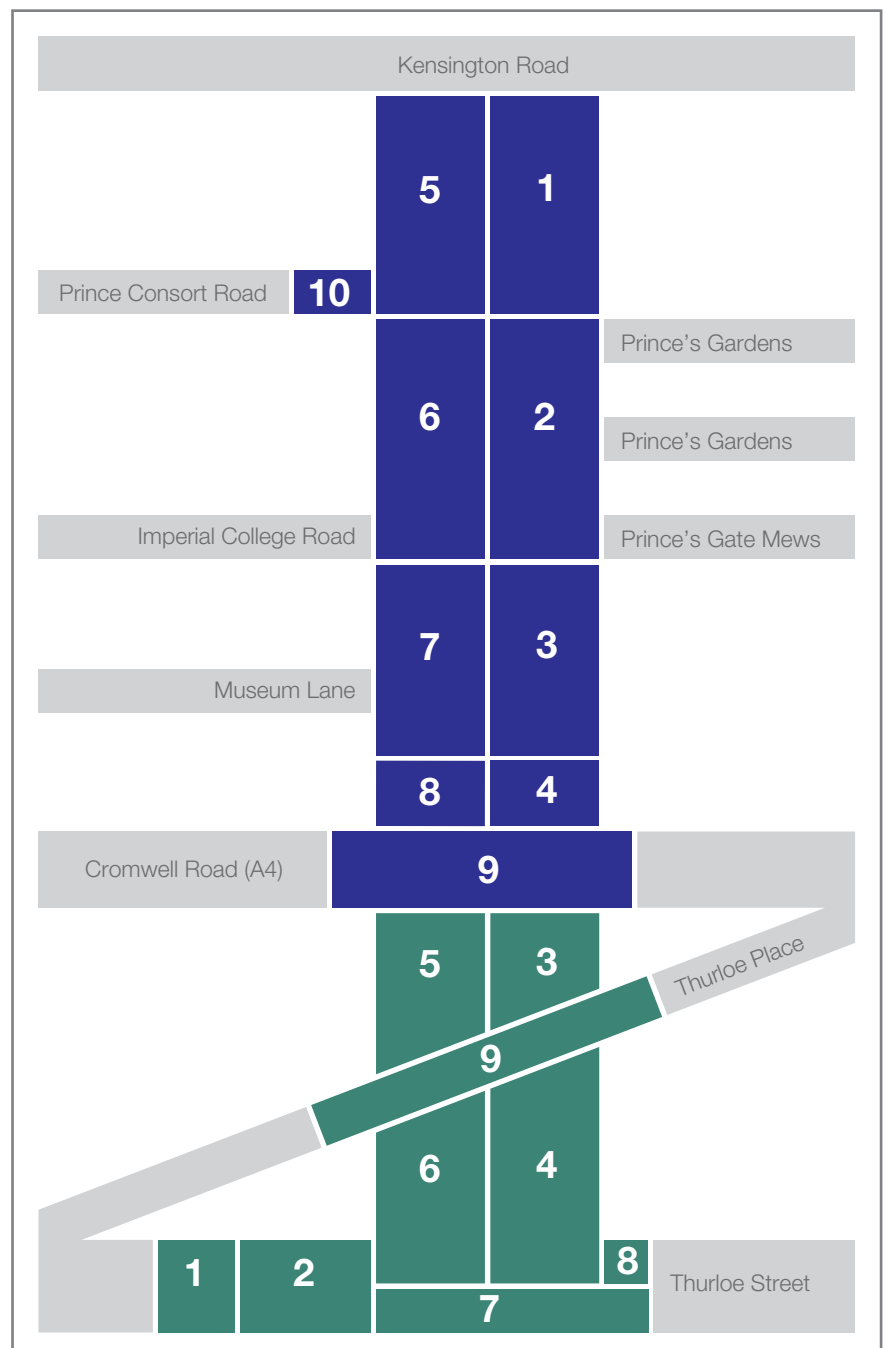
Exhibition Road Proposed Paving Schedule

Paving north of A4

1. Mar 10 - Jul 10
2. May 10 - Oct 10
3. Aug 10 - Jan 11
4. Mar 10 - Jun 10
5. Oct 10 - Apr 11
6. Jan 11 - Jun 11
7. Apr 11 - Aug 11
8. Oct 10 - Feb 11
9. Apr 10 - Mar 11
10. Mar 11 - Jun 11

Paving south of A4

1. Jan 10 - May 10
2. Jan 10 - Jul 10
3. Feb 10 - Jul 10
4. Jul 10 - Jan 11
5. Jul 10 - Dec 10
6. Feb 10 - Jul 10
7. Jul 10 - Oct 10
8. Oct 10 - Nov 10
9. May 10 - Jan 11





The South Kensington area

Last year we changed the traffic layout around South Kensington Underground Station by unravelling the old one-way traffic system. The new system is working well and has helped ease congestion, but we are monitoring it and will make changes if they are needed.

We are leaving the new pedestrian area on the south side of the station clear for the time being to see how people use the space before any further features are added. We will put in cycle parking and seating but nothing else for a while. We want to know what you think about the area. What should we put there? Or do you think we should leave it as it is? Please let us know at exhibitionroad@rbkc.gov.uk or call 020 7361 3238.

The northern exit of the station at Thurloe Street is now free of most traffic and the bus stops have been relocated to Thurloe Place. This area is currently being paved in Yorkstone to match the adjoining pavements. When it is finished it will create an open space between the station arcade and the southern end of Exhibition Road allowing more freedom of movement to people leaving the station.

We will be improving signage across the area to help guide visitors along Exhibition Road.



Parking and servicing

We know that parking is particularly important to residents and visitors to local businesses so we will keep as many parking spaces as possible throughout the works. We promise not to reduce the number of residents' parking bays but we will have to move them around from time to time.



Building contract signed

We have appointed Balfour Beatty Construction to carry out the works on the Exhibition Road project. With a team of around 60 staff they will be excavating the existing road and pavements, installing new 22 metre high lighting masts and finally laying a high quality dark and light patterned granite surface that is expected to last for up to 100 years – far longer than a conventional road surface which lasts only 25 years.



A face on the street

Every month we will be introducing you to a member of the Balfour Beatty team working on the street and telling you about the job they do – so look out for them and say hello!

We are starting with the man in charge – Ian Downie, Project Manager for Balfour Beatty. Ian is responsible for planning the work and ensuring it is delivered on time and to budget. He also has overall responsibility for the health and safety of all site workers and everyone else affected by the works, including the millions of pedestrians that will use the road during the construction period. Ian prides himself on his hands-on approach to public relations and always takes the time to talk to local residents and businesses. Ian is based in the site office in Queen's Gate and lives locally during the week, returning home to his native Scotland at weekends.

This newsletter is delivered to all homes, businesses and organisations in the Exhibition Road area. Every month we will let you know how the project is progressing, as well as introducing you to some of the people and the work they are carrying out on this £25 million project.



MAYOR OF LONDON

City of Westminster