

Keeping you informed

## South Kensington – what happens next

In the April newsletter we asked you to tell us about your likes, dislikes and hopes for the paved square outside South Kensington tube station and Thurloe Street/Exhibition Road (south of Cromwell Road).

Most of the people who responded thought that both spaces should be open, spacious and uncluttered with more trees and plants. A significant number of people were not keen on seating because they were worried about the return of drunks and vagrants who were a problem in the recent past. Street entertainers got the thumbs down because you didn't want more noise and disruption.

### Paved square outside the station

We will define the paved area as an open and uncluttered space. We will look for locations for new tree planting and explore the possibility of seasonal temporary planters. Many of you wanted a new stall for the flower seller so we will look at commissioning a new and beautifully designed, functional kiosk. We will not put benches on the paved square, nor agree any tables and chairs licences unless circumstances change significantly. We will not encourage busking or other forms of entertainment. We will not put any permanent public art on the paved area.

### Thurloe Street and Exhibition Road

The situation here is a little complex. We need to protect underground cellars and deal with deliveries and through traffic. We need to ensure that cars do



not park on the York Stone pavement at the end of Thurloe Street, nor wait in the granite section where only loading and unloading will be allowed.

We will keep street furniture in this area to a minimum, with rubbish bins mounted on lampposts, no benches, and bollards or cycle racks to protect vulnerable areas. We already plan to plant trees in Exhibition Road South of the Cromwell Road, and we will investigate the possibility of planting more at the entrance to Thurloe Street from Cromwell Place. The York Stone paved area here may also be suitable for seasonal planters.

We will not install either permanent public art, or a water feature in these streets. We will not move Bute Street farmer's market to this location, but we will investigate what other high quality temporary markets might be feasible and add to the vitality of the area.

Councillors will consider a comprehensive policy paper on café, restaurant and bars' outdoor tables and chairs for the area and we will bring you more news on this in a later newsletter.

**exhibitionroad@rbkc.gov.uk**  
**Shirley Long – 020 7361 3238**  
**[www.rbkc.gov.uk/exhibitionroad](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/exhibitionroad)**



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
**KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA**



*Granite, granite..... and more granite.*

## Tree works

The Council's arboriculturists will be pruning trees in Exhibition Road in early September. Three of the four plane trees on the western side of the road, outside the Ismaili Centre and the V&A will have their crowns reduced to help them deal with the stress of the road works. Unfortunately, we will have to remove the northernmost of the four trees because it has been damaged by high sided vehicles. We are looking for a suitable location to plant a replacement plane tree so we can keep to our commitment to ensure we keep Exhibition Road a green and pleasant place.



## A face on the street

This is Matt Doherty (left) who is a site engineer and Dan Barnes (right), a section engineer. They are responsible for translating the designers' drawings into a list of construction tasks so that the work force know how to build the scheme. Their work includes surveying the area and setting out the work to ensure it meets the correct levels and cross sections. On site, when things don't turn out as expected they need to think on their feet and find practical solutions to problems.

The Exhibition Road project is unique because it needs very precise measurements to form the criss cross pattern. Matt and Dan find the job very satisfying and are proud to be working on a project that they believe will last for generations and be known across the world.

## Gas works close Exhibition Road

National Grid is carrying out major works to gas mains in the Exhibition Road area. We are pleased that they have been able to schedule their work to synchronize with the Exhibition Road project as this means that they will not need to disturb the new surface for many years, but they are making the disruption worse.

They will need to close Exhibition Road between Cromwell Road and Thurloe Place for the next phase of their work. They will also close the southbound exit from Exhibition Road onto Cromwell Road. They may have to close the left turn from Cromwell Road into Exhibition Road. This will in effect make Exhibition Road into two cul-de-sacs either side of Cromwell Road. The works will start on 6 September this year and last for about six weeks. During this time crossing Cromwell Road will be more difficult and pedestrians will have to make longer diverted journeys to get to Exhibition Road. Pedestrians will find it much easier to use the tunnel to avoid the detours. Vehicles will be able to access properties on Exhibition Road but will be diverted around the area via Prince Consort Road.

Once National Grid has finished their work on the southern part of Exhibition Road (between Cromwell Road and Thurloe Street) we will keep the road closed a little longer to complete our paving work there.

**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**