

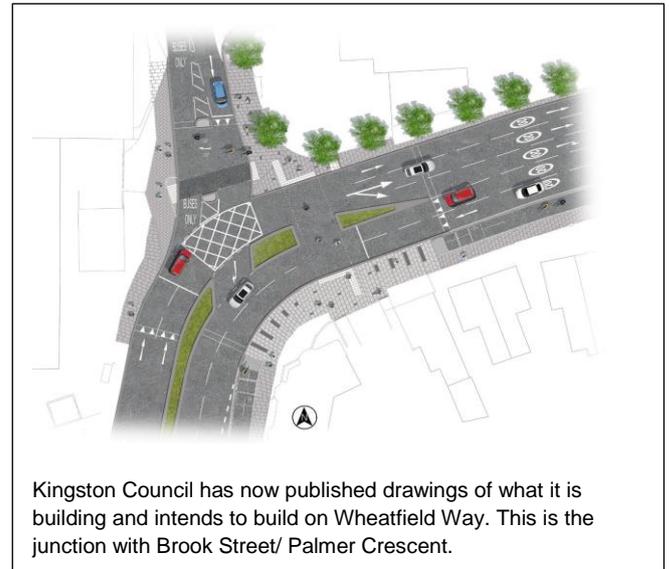


## We're still a long way from mini-Holland

You will have seen contractors busy building the GoCycle/ mini-Holland scheme at Wheatfield Way, maybe seen the works at Kingston Vale and perhaps you've noticed from a train that the New Malden to Raynes Park route is now being built. It's been a busy time for construction works and KCC's campaigners have been active, doing our best to ensure that the schemes give the most they can for riders. For example we have managed to get the council to revise the design at the Wilko junction so that there is now better access to the crossing.

We are frustrated that there has not been more separation of people on bikes and pedestrians in the Wheatfield Way designs, but the council's defence has frequently been that there is insufficient space to provide a separate cycle path and that the existing number of traffic lanes cannot be reduced, not least because TfL's buses arm refuses to countenance any possibility of bus journeys taking longer. The consequence is that car journey times are not affected either. It really is frustrating that a scheme wasn't designed that protects bus journey times and provides better cycling and walking facilities. We look at the two traffic lanes in each direction on Wheatfield Way and doubt that something better could not have been designed.

Concerns have been raised about the junction of Wheatfield Way and Brook Street (see image) where a new Toucan crossing replaces a separated crossing. All motor traffic heading out of Brook Street now has to go towards the College roundabout. This has freed up space for a larger 'footway' which is now shared with people on bikes. Drivers have, however, been seen illegally turning left from Brook Street and through the crossing, which is potentially highly dangerous. Brook Street doesn't have a signalled crossing for people on bikes so it's a case of giving way to traffic, mainly buses, there. We have scrutinised the designs for this location and asked that access to the paved area is improved for those travelling away from the town centre and that the



cycle crossing across Brook Street is enhanced by making the route clearer and having a marked area to wait in the middle if necessary, out of the traffic flow.

### 20's Plenty in Richmond - and Kingston too!

Richmond Council is currently consulting on a borough-wide 20 mph speed limit on all roads in that borough, with the exception of the A316 and A205 which are under TfL control. We're of the view that lower speed limits in urban areas are appropriate because lower speeds mean less risk and better conditions for cycling. We urge you to read about the proposal and complete the consultation response form. Go to [www.Richmond.gov.uk/20mph](http://www.Richmond.gov.uk/20mph).

Meanwhile in Kingston we know that the administration are keen on having 20 mph limits in residential roads across the borough. The problem at the moment appears to be a lack of funds to consult on and implement the change. We will press for funding from TfL's Local Implementation Programme (LIP).

## News round-up:

Work has started on the **Kingston Vale/ Kingston Hill** section of the mini-Holland route. We now understand that there will be semi-segregation with cycle tracks separated by a small kerb in places and on other stretches there will be bolt-down kerbing and slim bollards instead of black and white plastic “*Armadillos*” which were previously considered, following safety concerns about the Armadillos.

Proposals for new width restrictions on **Queen’s Road and Crescent Road** were rejected but consideration is to be given to introducing a 20 mph limit.

We’ve responded with comments to a draft design for a better crossing of **Horse Fair** at the Kingston end of Kingston Bridge.

**Our rides** continue to be popular with around 20 riders taking part on recent rides. Rides Leader Roger Mace now has some mid-week day time rides schedule which you are welcome to join if you’re free.

We’ve identified that the section of paving by the **telephone boxes** “Out of Order” sculpture is in need of a plan to revise the meandering cycle route which takes bikes to the crossing by Wilko. Provision needs to be made to take cyclists to and from the new crossing by what was (briefly) Maplin.

The **Ewell Road** mini-Holland scheme goes to detailed design stage if approved at a committee on 29<sup>th</sup> November. KCC’s Matt Stephen has been looking at the outline design and urging the council to make improvements in the next design stage. The scheme runs from St Mark’s Hill in Surbiton to the Greenway in Tolworth.

Bollards obstructing the new track at **Kingston High Street** have been moved nearer to the kerb but one has been knocked down already

## Keep up to date with news and rides

There’s simply too much news to include in this short newsletter. To keep in touch with cycle route proposals and changes please follow us on Twitter and Facebook @KingstonCycling or check our website at [www.kingstoncycling.org.uk](http://www.kingstoncycling.org.uk) where you can also find dates and times of upcoming rides.

## Some success on cycle parking

We’ve been informed that the council’s Neighbourhood Rangers now have the capability to remove bikes that have been abandoned on bike racks around the borough. Abandoned bikes have long been a frustration for cyclists because of the spaces blocked in the popular locations. Previously the council seemed reluctant to pay a contractor to keep the bike stands free of junked bikes. If you know of a bike that you think should be removed please contact Kingston Council who will then attach a notice giving the owner a couple of weeks to claim it before forced removal.

KCC campaigner Matt Stephen has been pressing the council about increased provision of **bike hangars**, sometimes referred to as “bread bin” parking, on residential streets so that people who don’t have anywhere to store their bikes at home can feel confident about locking their bike in the street nearby.



Photo: Cyclehoop

Users of bike hangars rent a space for an annual fee and get a key to the hangar door. Fellow mini-Holland borough Waltham Forest has so far installed 225 secure hangars with more promised.

**Campaign Meetings:** KCC campaign meetings happen on the second Tuesday each month EXCEPT this December when we have brought it forward to 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, 12<sup>th</sup> Mar etc. at 8pm. Our venue is the **Kingston Environment Centre** 1 Kingston Road, New Malden (by the Fountain roundabout). Meetings are open to all members and supporters of KCC/LCC. Call Jon on 07984 757761 if you want to