

WOOD STREET WELLHOUSE LANE JUNCTION

Barnet Council are recommending proposals for changes at the junction of Wellhouse Lane with Wood Street. These are intended to improve pedestrian safety and ease traffic movements to and from Barnet Hospital and local bus stops. In doing so the green space at the top of Wellhouse Lane would be enhanced and upgraded.

The main features would include:

- a mini-roundabout at the Wood Street/Wellhouse Lane junction;
- a new zebra crossing in Wellhouse Lane, linked with a direct pathway across the green space to the existing zebra on Wood Street;
- enhancement of the green space adjacent to the junction, with landscaping upgrades and revisions to the pathways to discourage inappropriate pedestrian movements across Wellhouse Lane;
- improvements to the bus stops in Wood Street to make them more disabled user-friendly.

The need for improvements in this area is driven by two main factors. First is the increasing role of Barnet Hospital since the merger with Chase Farm Hospital in Enfield. Secondly, there is a heavy movement of school pupils between Queen Elizabeth's Boys' School in Queens Road and the bus stops in Wood Street and at the hospital bus terminus. This has been made more acute since the 307 bus was diverted to the hospital from its turnaround at The Arkley.

The next stage is the council's consultation with stakeholders, utilities and statutory bodies. The Barnet Society has submitted supportive comments on the council recommendations, which were accompanied by an assessment of a number of options by Capita, the in-house consultancy employed by Barnet. However the Society has expressed some concerns about the deviation effect on westbound motorists on Wood Street at the mini roundabout and the sightlines for traffic emerging from Wellhouse Lane towards Barnet, and seeks reassurance on this matter.

The estimated costs (at 2014 prices) of the recommended package total £232,000 (mini-roundabout £121,000, bus stops £13,000, green space upgrade £55,000, design costs £43,000). Capita also investigated a traffic signal option as an alternative to the mini roundabout. This was estimated to cost £226,000, an increase of £105,000 over the recommended package, if other costs remained the same.