Camden Cycling Campaign

4th November 2026

To: holbornln@camden.gov.uk

Great Russell Street Consultation

This response to the consultation on changes to Great Russell Street is from Camden Cycling Campaign, the local borough group of the London Cycling Campaign. We represent the interests of cyclists living or working in or travelling through Camden and aim to expand the opportunities for all to cycle safely in the borough.

Background

Great Russell Street is a very busy street with high pedestrian footfall and is blighted by high levels of motor traffic, especially taxis and private hire vehicles. The section between Bury Place and Montague Street forms part of the C52 cycleway which runs from Covent Garden to Bloomsbury but is unsafe and difficult to negotiate due to motor traffic levels.

General Points

We are glad to see the proposed measures to improve the street for pedestrians but feel that the proposals do little for cycling. We are disappointed not to see early consultation on full pedestrianisation and are concerned that these interim solutions would delay that consultation.

Bury Place, which links New Oxford Street and Bloomsbury Way to Great Russell Street as part of C52, is inadequate for current cycle volumes. We understand that it is being considered for improvements as part of the Liveable Neighbourhood program but, in the short term, the junction with Great Russell Street could be improved by widening the northbound contraflow lane.

Specific Issues

1. We have no objection to the proposed uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at the mouth of Museum Street.
2. We support the continuous pavement at the mouth of Willoughby Street.
3. We strongly support the removal of parking on the north side of Great Russell Street, in favour of additional space for pedestrians.
4. We support the relocation of the Dockless Bike Hire Bay from the pavement at the southern end of Montague Street to increase space for pedestrians but are concerned about dumping of hire bikes if the new bay is too far away from the British Museum.
5. We strongly support the introduction of double yellow lines at the southern end of Bedford Place near the junction; this is in line with Camden policy and will make the junction safer for both pedestrians and cyclists.
6. We support the introduction of additional cycle stands and seating for visitors to the area and the new cycle hangar on Bedford Place.

Our Answers to the Questions from the Online Survey

9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our overall proposals for Great Russell Street?

    Agree but they don’t go far enough

10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposals to improve crossing experience at side road junctions by introducing continuous footways and uncontrolled crossings?

    Agree

11. To what extent do you agree with our proposals to widen the pavement outside the British Museum to replace four paid-for parking bays, to create more space and a pleasant environment for pedestrians?

Strongly agree

12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposals to relocate the on-pavement Dockless Bike Hire Bay from Great Russell Street to Bedford Place to increase space for pedestrians on the key walking route from Russell Square to the British Museum?

Agree

13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposals to add cycle stands on Montague Street and Great Russell Street to provide short-stay visitor cycle storage on the street?

Agree

14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposals to add seating at strategic locations along Great Russell Street to provide spaces to rest for all users of the street?

Agree

15. What type of seating do you think we should add to Great Russell Street?

Simple benches

16. If implemented, what do you think you might like about the changes proposed?

- Walking here will be safer
- Visiting the area will be easier and safer.
- There will be more spaces to park bikes for short visits.
- It will be more pleasant to spend time here.

17. If implemented, what do you think you might not like about the changes proposed? (you can choose more than one)

- There will still not be enough spaces to park bikes for short visits.

18. Do you have any other ideas for improvements to the proposed changes, or any others on how to improve this space?

- All motor vehicles should be banned - just cycles and pedestrians.

19. If implemented, what do you think you might like about the changes proposed? (you can choose more than one)

This question appears to duplicate question 16.

20. If implemented, what do you think you might not like about the changes proposed? (you can choose more than one)

This question appears to duplicate question 17.

21. Do you think the proposals may have an impact on you (or others) with reference to any one or more of the following protected characteristics?

- The additional pavement space and seating will help people with disabilities.

Please acknowledge receipt of this response. We would be very happy to discuss any aspect of our comments; contact details are below.

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