

## **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE – SEE BELOW**

**Look both ways when crossing the road**

**Use the pedestrian crossings**

**Tottenham Court Road is now two way to traffic**

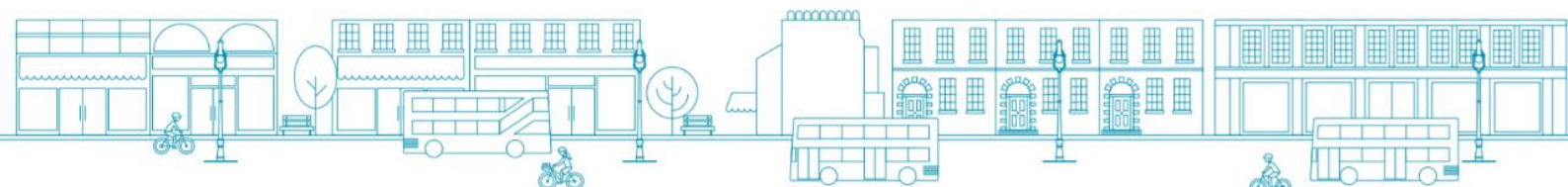
Project Update – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### Key summary / information

- West End project started Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- [Latest work updated](#) weekly online
- [Scheme maps](#) available on our website
- Sign up to our [monthly newsletter](#)
- Traffic movement map for Tottenham Court Road 2019 [available online](#)
- Final scheme maps [available online](#)
- Deliveries Guide [available online](#)
- Programme for Gower Street/Bloomsbury Street and Princes Circus [available online](#)

### New for this month

- West End Project Coronavirus update
- Whitfield Gardens update
- Coronavirus information for businesses
  - Can you help – virtual work experience for children
  - Can you help – laptop and iPad donations
  - Are you due a grant payment
- Coronavirus information for residents
  - Accessing financial support
  - Sign up to our newsletter
  - Help with employment problems



## **West End Project Coronavirus (COVID-19) update**

Due to the impacts of Coronavirus (COVID-19) our West End Project contractors Eurovia have closed down the main sites of Gower Street and Princes Circus. Barriers remain around areas on Princes Circus but all other areas are cleared.

The site continues to be monitored by a small team on site and the 24-hour contact number and email address will still be active should you need to get in touch.

This pause will have an effect on the programme and updates will be added to the website as the full impacts become clear.

## **Whitfield Gardens Update**

Work is currently continuing in Whitfield Gardens. Idverde are closely monitoring the situation and reviewing daily. The team have completed digging to the new level and are protecting the roots of the trees from damage. The initial work to the mural has been completed with the artists now on site working on the painting. The locations for all the new lights have been prepared and the first delivery of furniture arrives this week for installation. We are working hard to ensure as little noise as possible is generated on the site but we would like to thank nearby residents for their patience and understanding while work continues.

## **HS2 work on Gower Street**

HS2 have paused their works on Gower Street due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) you can find out more on their programme and sign up for updates via their website <https://hs2ineuston.commonplace.is/news>

## **Contact details**

Website	camden.gov.uk/westendproject
Electronic Newsletter	Sign up via our website
24 hour contact	Whitfield Gardens enquiries: 0800 917 6263 Other project enquiries: 0845 3308 743
Visit Us	Appointments currently unavailable
Email	westendproject@camden.gov.uk

## **Coronavirus information for businesses**

### **Can you support young people with virtual work experience?**

We are calling on Camden employers to be part of a pioneering Virtual Work Experience Programme, providing local students, with their first experiences of work this June/July.

We know that many Camden students will have had their crucial first experiences of work cancelled. Work experience has a significant positive impact on young people's outcomes, particularly on those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

So, this is why Camden has partnered with Speakers for Schools – a national educational charity backed by employers including the Bank of England, BP, Marie Curie and Spotify – to offer STEAM Pledge employers the opportunity to provide Virtual Work Experience (VWEX).

For further information on how to get involved contact [Steampledge@camden.gov.uk](mailto:Steampledge@camden.gov.uk)

### **Can you help donate Laptops and iPads to help vulnerable pupils learn at home?**

Camden Council is asking businesses to donate spare laptops and iPads for vulnerable students who don't have a device at home to help them to access vital online learning while schools are closed.

The Council is also working with Camden Learning, schools, community groups and local businesses to find ways to ensure pupils have a Wi-Fi connection in their homes.

If a business has laptops or iPads that they can donate to a school in Camden that are less than five years old and in good condition, we will collect them and work with schools to distribute them to children who most need them.

Companies can also make financial donations and sponsor schools to help purchase or repurpose laptops for students.

Find the [short form here](#) to tell us about your spare laptops or iPads.

### **Are you due a grant payment?**

There are two grant funding schemes, the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund. We know many smaller businesses have not yet received their grant payment from us and we are urging you to get in touch to see if you are eligible.

So far, the council has made 1,549 awards of the £25,000 government business grant, totalling £38.75m. Staff from the business rates team are currently processing the forms already received from the remaining eligible businesses for both the £10,000 and £25,000 grants.

If you received small business rates relief as of 11 March 2020, you'll be eligible for a Small Business Support Grant Fund payment of £10,000. This includes those in receipt of tapered relief (where your rateable value falls between £12,000 - £15,000). We will not make awards retrospectively, where the relief is not currently in place, except in exceptional circumstances.

Properties whose liability is calculated using the small business multiplier (where your rateable value is above £15,000, but below £51,000) but are not in receipt of small business rates relief, will not qualify for this grant.

If your business is in the retail, hospitality or leisure industry, you'll be eligible for a grant payment through the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grant fund. If your rateable value is £15,000 or less, you'll be entitled to a grant of £10,000. If your rateable value is greater than £15,000 and less than £51,000, you'll be entitled to a grant of £25,000. State Aid limits are applied, meaning they are capped at an 800,000 euro limit per company.

More information on the two grants is available on [the government website](#).

If you pay business rates by direct debit or where we already hold your bank details, the grant will automatically be transferred into your bank account so you don't need to do anything. If you have not received a grant please share your bank details with us by [filling in this form](#) so that we can make the payment or call us on 020 7974 6460.

## **Coronavirus information for Residents**

### **Accessing Financial Support**

If you are struggling with your finances as a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19) or you know someone who is, listed below are some of the ways you can access support. We are here to help so if you are struggling in any way, get in touch.

1. If you are facing immediate financial hardship – e.g. you have no income or money in your account – you can apply for a one-off payment of around £50 through our Local Welfare Assistance Fund (LWAF) to buy groceries or pay a bill. You can [apply yourself](#) or by calling us on 020 7974 4444 (option 9).
2. Check you're claiming all the benefits you are entitled to including our Council Tax Support scheme which reduces the amount of council tax residents are required to pay.
3. If you are receiving Council Tax support already and have something left to pay, you should have received a letter from us about a further discount - let us know if you haven't.
4. If you don't receive Council Tax support already and earn less than £387 per week (or less than £483.75 if you have children, are living with a disability, or you're a carer), you will be eligible for a discount. If you earn less than £86 per week, you won't pay anything at all but you need to apply for this discount [online](#) or by calling us on 0207 974 4444 (option 9).

5. Full details on what Government benefits are available and how to apply for them can be [found on our website](#).

### **Have you signed up for our coronavirus newsletter?**

Every Thursday we send an email newsletter with the latest public health and Government advice, an update on our services, advice on different topics like looking after your mental health and more. [Sign up here](#) and visit for more information.

### **Helping you with employment worries**

We know that many of our residents are struggling in an unstable job market right now, causing additional stress. Whether you are experiencing insecure work, need some financial support, or are out of work and don't know where to start – Good Work Camden is here to help.

Good Work Camden's Job Hub is a new service that is available to any Camden resident, providing one-to-one support on all employment-related matters. This includes:

- employment advice
- links to job vacancies
- support with CVs, job applications and interviews
- links to training services
- access to benefits advice
- direct links to other Camden council services

Job Hub Advisors work with services across the borough to ensure residents get the support they need right now.

For more information and to register for Job Hub visit: [www.camden.gov.uk/employment-support](http://www.camden.gov.uk/employment-support) or email: [jobhub@camden.gov.uk](mailto:jobhub@camden.gov.uk)

For the latest advice on the financial support available to workers visit: [www.camden.gov.uk/financial-support-for-workers1](http://www.camden.gov.uk/financial-support-for-workers1)