

Petitioner:	Barbara Ward
Petition:	Upper Colomb Street - obstructed pathway
Number of signatures:	39
The petition read as follows:	<p>The undersigned residents of Upper Colomb Street request that consideration is given to identifying and implementing an appropriate solution to the obstructed pathway outside 21/23 Colomb Street,(not including the removal of the tree).</p> <p>Residents also request a consideration of general neighbourhood accessibility including the overall position and useability of dropped kerbs within the locality</p>

Previous Cabinet Member:	Environment Sustainability and Transport
Current Cabinet Member:	Climate Change, Environment and Transport
Original Ward:	Peninsula
Current Ward:	East Greenwich
Directorate:	DCEC

Submitted to Council on:	26 January 2022
Presented by:	Councillor Denise Scott-McDonald

I. **Petition Response**

- I.1 Note the petition received for improvements to be made to the footway along Colomb Street. Local area accessibility is key and whilst the current footway is in good condition, it is noted that some mature trees within the area (and in particular outside 21 – 23 Colomb Street) can create an obstruction to pedestrians.
- I.2 Unfortunately there are no plans for the mature street tree to be removed. Removal of the established street tree would be contrary to both the Council’s Green Strategy and Highway Maintenance Plans.
- I.3 The petition highlights that the street layout and existing trees lead to some inconvenience and issues for vulnerable road users. This is however a historical issue in this older section of the borough and is a result of trees being planted more than 30 years ago. The streets and houses were built pre-

1890 and there are similar issues experienced in other parts of the Royal Borough and London as a whole.

- 1.4 Following receipt of the petition and noting the localised footway obstruction issues within Columb Street, it is agreed that the Council will investigate the site further and review pedestrian and footway accessibility.

2 Current actions being taken in relation to matter raised in petition

2.1 To note the receipt of the petition and to:

- Arrange further investigation of the site to identify whether an additional pedestrian dropped kerb and/or informal crossing can be implemented. If this can be provided, it would deliver a route to avoid the pinch point located outside 21 – 23 Colomb Street.
- Whilst it is accepted that the street trees and direct obstruction cannot be removed at this time, further review of the pedestrian facilities will be considered locally.
- A review of a route avoiding the tree, and assessment of crossing points has already been undertaken. The Council carries out a regime of continuous highway safety inspections. Colomb Street and the surrounding streets are inspected for safety and serviceability defects every three months, whilst Trafalgar Road is done monthly. The inspections are designed to identify and arrange repairs for defects that are considered a hazard to road users, particularly pedestrian and other mobility impaired users. Other non-hazardous defects are also repaired such as raised kerb at crossing points. This regime will continue in line with the Council's approved highway maintenance plan.