



21 May 2021

Dear Neighbour

The Championships 2021 – prioritising access for you during road closures

I am writing to give you more information about this year's Championships. In order to deliver a safe and secure environment for both our local residents and our guests, we have applied for an experimental temporary closure of parts of Church Road, Somerset Road and Bathgate Road.

This is proposed to be as follows (see map):

- **Church Road:** between the junction with Bathgate Road and the double roundabout at the junction with St Mary's Road.
- **Somerset Road:** between the lower junction of Newstead Way and the junction with Marryat Road.
- **Bathgate Road:** between Seymour Road and Queensmere Road.

This is essentially an extension of the normal event Traffic Management Order and the move is similar in concept to measures adopted at other sporting events such as rugby internationals at Twickenham and major football grounds. The proposed *Experimental Traffic Order* will enhance and increase the safety and security of visitors, pedestrians and cyclists in the area during tennis events at the AELTC Grounds by:

- Reducing crowding and increasing the standoff distance on each side of the Grounds effectively away from the main gates at peak times.
- Restricting vehicle access to these crowded areas during The Championships.
- Creating a safer environment which mitigates threats within crowded spaces and is in support of prevailing guidance.
- Increasing space available for people arriving or departing to adhere to guidance in relation to COVID-19. This includes introducing new controls and restrictions on vehicle access on Church Road and Somerset Road.
- Diverting unnecessary through traffic from the area during The Championships to reduce the impact on local residents.

A key element throughout the planning process has been both how to help the wider local community by discouraging non-Championships' related through-traffic from entering the area; and to protect and prioritise our closest neighbours, so that normal life can continue as much as possible. As such, we have been liaising closely with our local Residents Associations to explain the situation and, with their helpful input, looked to determine how best to achieve this. The thinking has covered not only those living in the property, but also visitors, carers, domestic help, and deliveries etc.

With these measures and a wider campaign of strategic advance warning and tactical diversionary signage on major arterial routes, as well as more locally, and improved routing of Championships visitors, we hope to see a reduction in overall traffic levels during the period. If it proves successful, it is something we would like to consider in future years.

How it is proposed to work

What we are proposing therefore is this:

- Where the two roads are physically closed, no vehicular entry will be permitted.
- An outer zone controlled by a series of staffed checkpoints at each end, and at strategic points, will make sure only residents or their guests, visitors etc are able to access the restricted zone.
- Hours of operation are scheduled to be: 09:00-23.30 daily from Monday 28 June - Sunday 11 July. Assuming no middle Sunday play, on Sunday 4 July the roads will be open as usual.
- Each household receiving this letter will be given an initial allocation of 3 clearly marked vehicle permits which will allow smooth passage through the checkpoints.
- These are for your own vehicles' use or those visiting your property.
- The permits only allow access and are not a guarantee of parking, which will continue to be operated by both Merton and Wandsworth Councils as would usually be the case.
- Motorcycles will be treated the same as cars although we appreciate that it is difficult to display passes. Bicycles are not affected.
- We will have a team specifically assigned to ensure the operation runs smoothly.
- If you find you need more passes, these can be requested by email from ntm@aeltc.com

We will back be in contact nearer the time with the permits and if you have any questions in the meantime, please email ntm@aeltc.com.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation, and please don't hesitate to contact us at any time either on email or on 0208 971 6243.

Yours sincerely



Sally Bolton OBE
Chief Executive