

Wemyss-Cooke, Vicky

From: Debbie Radcliffe [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 June 2018 16:18
To: Wemyss-Cooke, Vicky
Subject: Deputation for meeting at 6pm, Wednesday 27 June with Leader of Camden Council

Dear Vicky

As BRAG's Chair, I would like to give a deputation on Wednesday in relation to the proposals being considered by the Leader of the Council.

We object strongly to the proposal to create an isolated island of streets by closing the north end of Judd Street to motor traffic and stopping access from the south via Lansdowne Terrace.

This will be damaging to the large number of residents and small local traders who live and work here. It will impact on deliveries, provision of services and thus our day to day quality of life.

I wish to focus on two issues:

1. Proposals do not solve pollution issue

There is a persistent argument that the removal of motor traffic improves air quality. But the pollution doesn't go away, it just moves somewhere else. And the more you slow traffic down, the more pollution levels increase.

We applaud the Council's transport policy to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists in the hierarchy of movement - albeit not everyone is able to walk or cycle.

But these same pedestrians and cyclists will be exposed to the increased pollution that is displaced elsewhere.

To live an ordinary life requires freedom of movement and reasonable air quality over a wide area. It is unrealistic to want to restrict a journey to certain streets where traffic has been deliberately removed.

Tourists arriving at St Pancras station and wishing to explore central London on foot also require freedom of movement and decent air to breathe.

2. It is too soon to make a decision

There is no reference in the Officer's Report to the impact that HS2 and the redevelopment of Euston will have on our area. We have no real idea of how the West End project and the changes to Gower Street and Tottenham Court Road will affect getting around this part of London. There is still no decision on the Tavistock Place corridor.

No other alternative solutions have been considered to reduce the impact of traffic, yet allow residents a reasonable quality of life, eg the use of technology [vehicle recognition identification] to permit certain vehicles to enter the area at certain times of the day.

To make a decision on these road closures today is premature.

Kind regards

Debbie Radcliffe

Chair, BRAG (Bloomsbury Residents Action Group) - Residents Matter