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Subject: People Friendly Streets Canonbury West

Date: 31-08-2020 07:32

From: <contact@canonburysociety.org.uk>

To:

You have probably received a leaflet from the Council about people friendly streets in our area. For members living in Alwyne Villas, St Paul's Road, Canonbury Road and Canonbury Square who are excluded from the scheme, a copy of the leaflet is attached.

The Society's Traffic Subcommittee, which was set up at the last AGM, has had several discussions with our councillors about the scheme. We are not opposed to the idea of traffic calming in our area; indeed we welcome the removal of the rat-run from St Paul's Road to Canonbury Lane caused by delays at Highbury Corner. But we are unhappy with the detailed means of achieving this.

- We strongly dislike cutting off Alwyne Villas and Canonbury Square from the rest of the area
- We would prefer the "filters" which prevent through traffic and cut off all but essential emergency services from entering or leaving the area to be at the St Paul's Road end rather than near Canonbury Road; the Council's scheme forces us to enter via Grange Grove or Canonbury Park North and leave by one of those streets or Compton Road. This will involve very circuitous journeys to and from areas to the west, which is where we think most Canonbury residents, including elderly and disabled residents attending hospital or doctors surgeries are likely to go
- We queried the rationale for siting the filters as it will add to the congestion and pollution in St Paul's Road and said that, if they have to be on the west side, they should be where Alwyne Villas joins Canonbury Road and between Alwyne Villas and Canonbury Square. The Council traffic experts have not accepted this.
- We are worried about the proposal to force larger delivery and other vehicles to enter and leave via Grange Grove and have asked our councillors whether the width restriction in Canonbury Park North could also be altered once through traffic is excluded.
- We are worried that in the short term Alwyne Villas and Compton Road will be an escape route for frustrated and impatient drivers who have entered the area from St Paul's Road and find themselves trapped.

During the next 6 months we can let the Council know about serious drawbacks to the scheme and there is a slight chance that the scheme might be modified. So wait a week or so to see how it settles down and then please send the Council your concerns. And let us know. A decision whether to make the scheme permanent will be taken in 18 months time.

Kind regards

Philip Walker
Chairman