

Email to Councillor Rowena Champion, Aya Collins and Martijn Cooijmans

Copies to Canonbury Councillors Wayne, Jeapes and Woolf and other local Councillors in St Mary's ward

Canonbury West LTN. Comments by the Canonbury Society

The Council has asked for suggestions on how the present LTN could be improved. Individual members of the Society may have already submitted their comments by the end of the formal consultation. We have also conducted our own survey of opinion among our members and had 170 responses. The Society hopes that the Council will take account of our suggestions below:

1. There is a clear majority (86%) against the LTN in its present form, but 56% would support the LTN if it were modified.
2. The most popular modification is to give all local residents an exemption from the local restrictions, using ANPR technology. We understand this feeling, particularly as Islington already has very low car ownership and the vast majority of trips are already on foot, cycling or (in non-COVID times) on public transport. The main need for travel improvement to meet the London mayor's CO2 and other environmental objectives is in the outer boroughs where TfL's 2021 travel study shows that the majority of car mileage (and therefore pollution) lies.
3. We realise that the Council is very unlikely to agree to such a wide exemption because its aim is to persuade more local people to make better transport choices and to walk and cycle more in order to improve their own health through greater exercise and in the case of car owners to reduce local air pollution and CO2 emissions. But the LTN has had a deleterious impact on residents for whom walking and cycling are not an option and giving them an exemption would not significantly increase car use.
4. The Council has already accepted the need to exempt blue badge holders (though we think there is a need for improvements to make the process more helpful to disabled users). We think the Council should also exempt:
 - a. All elderly people, most of whom who are unable to cycle or to walk long distances. This could be done by granting ANPR exemptions to car owners who are entitled to an age discount on visitor parking permits.
 - b. Care workers and others visiting any resident entitled to an age discount on visitor parking permits. This could we assume be done through the on-line visitor parking permit scheme
5. We should also like to see exemptions for cabs being used by elderly or sick residents to access medical services. As many as 46% of our members refer to the difficulty of persuading a cab to pick up or set down within the LTN or having to walk to a pick-up point outside the LTN to get to a hospital appointment on time. We realise that such an exemption is probably technically difficult or impossible. If so, we suggest that at the very least electric black cabs (which do not add to CO2 and other tailpipe emissions) should be exempt.

28th January 2022