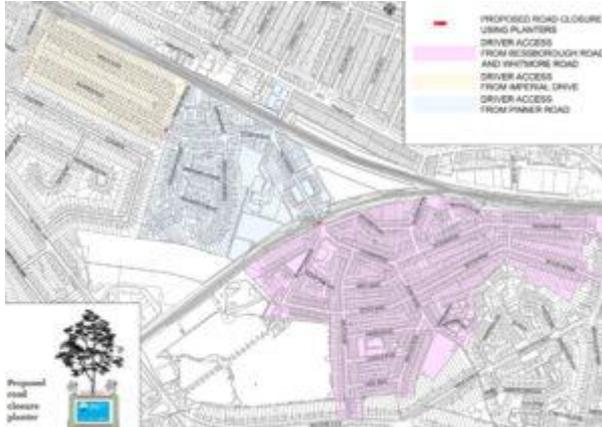


LTN 04 Low Traffic Neighbourhood VAUGHAN ROAD



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Deputation On Monday 11th January 2021 on Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel, by Luke Wilson.

I'm a resident let me out of here

I am here to raise concerns for resident safety as a result of now only having one route in or out which often becomes no route at different times of the day. This is all as a result of the LTN04 planters, which I and fellow residents request the immediate removal.

1 - Blocked in with no route out

I live in Dorchester Avenue which prior to 4 month ago had three access routes, unfortunately as a result of LTN04 planters we now have one. This route requires all residents to drives via Vaughan primary school and Tesco express located at the top of Vaughan road / The gardens. This route often becomes blocked as a result of emergency vehicles attending calls, parent's abandoning their cars when dropping children at school (The head teacher of Vaughan school states that on Monday morning with the dustbin lorries is a shambles and a nightmare for children's safety), West Harrow garage when moving cars or having a delivery, Tesco express has a container truck delivering stock and any supermarket deliveries. At any point one of the above happens we are stuck with no way in or out. We currently have temporary traffic lights which is causing even more difficulties getting out of our own houses.

This is causing great concern for all residents as we are trapped as a result. This is a health and safety nightmare. Due to LTN04 Harrow council directly trapped hundreds of residents within their homes during certain times of the day. Even when we can get out we now have to drive via a primary school which causes long term harm to the children breathing in the extra car fumes. This is not acceptable you must act now

2 - Bladon gardens

Bladon gardens is a warden controlled residential area which often has carers come to provide support for the residents. As a direct result of LTN04 many appointments have been late and residents are concerned that some appointments might even be missed very soon if this continues. Are the council trying to hurt someone?



3 - Expert advice?

The expert advice the council have received resulted in a Zebra crossing illegally being blocked by three planters which has now had to close as a result. Also against both harrow council and government guidance emergency vehicles were blocked from entering for four months and only now finally the council realised the mistake have now opened up LTN04 to emergency vehicles. Although this is a start, it doesn't solve the issue that all emergency vehicles have to slow down in order to pass the planters which delays there response time. Even if it is just seconds, this is a matter of life or death in many cases. What sort of experts are Harrow council using if this is the advice they have been provided? And why are Victor road, Canterbury road and Gloucester road still not open to emergency vehicles are those residents' lives worth less than ours?

4 - I am a cyclist but this scheme doesn't help me

I am a cyclist and have been for 10 years. At no point have I ever had an issue with a moving car next to me on the road, either a main road or back street. Actually I find other cyclist are the biggest risk to me on the road. Often cyclist don't have lights and are very difficult to see as well as cyclist going through a red light throughout harrow without any care in the world. As a result of all LTN planters there is much more traffic and pollution on the main roads making any journey using my bike much worse not better. I suggest any cyclist who can't cycle on a main road or back road with moving cars takes up some cycling lessons before they do someone some harm.

It was quoted by Emma that residents have supported LTN's schemes for years and welcome the planters. How many people actually supported this? There is already one petition which has over 5 thousands signatures which 4,500 thousands are based in. When you don't give everyone an equal voice it is called dictatorship not western democracy.

The solution for one road issue raised by Claire has now resulted in many roads being unsafe. Doesn't seem like a solution.

Issue raised by supporters of LTN's has mostly been damage to vehicles or property and their solution is to cause huge traffic issue resulting in delaying emergency services which damages life. This isn't a solution this is greater issue.



Vaughan school is less safe as people leave their cars, no zebra crossing and all residents now have to pass the school. We are residents we are not rat runners. The head teachers and residents surrounding the school know the area best.

Nick said it takes him longer by 3 or 5 mins. Now do that on the mass scale for all residents. We are in a lock down how do you expect roads to cope with traffic after lock down. Camera are not the solution, consultation is.

5 - Harrow council's purpose

I am really concerned, harrow council are trying to make harrow a no go zone, we are stopping people from travelling on many roads. You might as well have a sign saying you are not welcome. This is not the harrow I want to support. I request the removal of LTN04 and all other LTN planters in the area.

Ending

You have heard 7 deputations tonight and 6 have been against and 1 in favour, this is what I call feedback. You must now list to us.

Can harrow council confirm to me they believe in a free, fair and safe society were each resident gets access to their homes at all times of the day and when residents voice their opinion they are treated equally and democracy wins. If so they must remove any and all restrictions, the residents have had their say and the majority say NO.

Cameras are not the solution consultation is.

Cameras will increase loneliness and isolation and stops friends or family coming to visit without spending more time and money travelling on main roads

Cameras stops carers getting to their appointments on time and could result in further harm being caused and in some cases maybe even death

We are stopping essential delivery drivers meeting their targets

Creates a wealth divide as only the financially stable can afford the entrance cost or the longer journey which cost more fuel.

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Second deputation for LTN04 area by Karen



Objections and request to remove the Low Traffic Neighbourhood LTN04 Vaughan Road and Blenheim Road.

Reason:

This scheme is adversely impacting on many residents and stakeholders of West Harrow. They were not consulted and are now suffering considerable stress and anxiety. An example being the large group of residents essentially trapped between 2 blockades in the following roads. Blenheim Road, The Gardens, Bladon Gardens, Grosvenor Avenue, Sandhurst Avenue, Beaumont Avenue, Dorchester Avenue, North Avenue.

Thank you. My deputation is about LTN04 and a request for it to be removed immediately.

I am a resident in West Harrow, and I am speaking on behalf of the majority of residents, who are opposed to the LTN04 scheme. I will outline the reasons we are opposed to the scheme and ask for the Tarsap committee to recommend to the council for its immediate removal.

My first point is;

1. Reduced access -

Several exits across West Harrow have been cut off by the 2 LTN road closures, some leaving only one exit for hundreds of residents who previously had a choice of three

- This causes longer journeys in a big circle and opposite direction you want to go, causing more time, money, and stress
- This exit road, The Gardens, is completely blocked at times during the day. Tesco and Arla (frozen foods) articulated lorries deliver every day. They also often wait on this exit road for space, and perform dangerous numerous point turns.
- This exit road has continual queuing traffic, which is made worse by the displaced traffic forced onto the now busier Pinner Main Road.
- In addition, due to an increased demand in online ordering, there are additional Tesco Delivery vans going in and out daily too from that venue. This in addition produces more cars turning into The Gardens to enter Tesco car park to collect.
- Also in the Gardens, adjacent to Vaughan primary school is West Harrow garage and Harrow used car garage and their customers and staff turn cars regularly throughout the day in the course of their business, for MOTs, repairs, servicing, etc.
- Primary school children and parents are also crossing this road continually at school times.
- Many residents are now forced to drive past the primary school, which is a hazard that we ordinarily try to avoid but now we have no choice.
- North Harrow floods under the bridge another reason residents need access along Blenheim Road
- Several times in a day we can be blocked in by this dangerous bottleneck, with no other way out.

2. Vaughan Primary School

- Our only exit now Forces residents to drive past the school thus Increasing fumes and pollution around the school and onto the main Pinner road. Most primary school pupils walk along this main road to get to school, which we have now contributed pollution to. The traffic queues along The Gardens, with idling engines, are now surrounding the primary school children and parents walking past.
- The pedestrian crossing by the rear school entrance, which parents of Vaughan school fought for years to put in place, has now been obstructed by the planters. This has now been closed off all together. Right now the school children cannot cross the road safely there.
- Many school parents have been abandoning their cars across the local residents roads and driveways, and west Harrow garage forecourt, while they drop off their children, due to the limited stopping spaces, with total disregard to residents.
- In a recent meeting with ward councillors and residents, the Head Teacher of Vaughan Primary school raised deeply concerning views for the safety of her 700 pupils and staff, requesting the immediate removal of the planters, to safeguard her pupils from serious harm. The head teacher was not even consulted before the scheme was implemented. Before a child gets injured, will the Tarsap panel accept and action the Head teachers request for the immediate removal of LTN04.



3. Divided community

- The blockades in the LTN scheme has divided West Harrow right down the middle, and is not suitable for West Harrow roads. Harrow Council have created their own Berlin Wall in West Harrow
- This scheme is Disadvantaging the less mobile, less abled and elderly, who regularly rely on their cars as they do not walk or cycle. Many have lived here all of their lives. This is detrimental to those groups who are most vulnerable in our community
- Many are now unable to drive directly to their GPs, and medical practises, and are forced to do a big circle which causes a great deal of anxiety, already exasperated during this Covid-19 period.
- Many are asking, what are the benefits of not being able to reach our local parks unless I am young and fit. The elderly and less abled feel discriminated against.
- A noticeable increase in drug and alcohol abuse around the planters by West Harrow station has been noted by many residents, and reported to the police. This has meant for some it is now a no go area to walk past when its dark.

4. Other stakeholders: shops, businesses, allotments

There are several shops in the centre of West Harrow on Vaughan Road, Merivale Road and Butler Road. They are now suffering with lack of passing trade and delivery access.

Mr and Mrs Huchun Giro owners of The Good CHEF take away– 144 Vaughan Road – their delivery services now have to go in the opposite direction of their destination, resulting in more costs, pollution and business time. Less deliveries are able to be completed, and loss of passing trade has resulted in a direct detrimental impact on their business. They are suffering very badly and are very upset and distressed.

Mr Nicholas Creasey owner of Harrow Superstore shop and off-license, on Merivale Road explained the road closure on Vaughan Road has led to a significant drop in business due to lack of footfall and passing trade, and his deliveries have been interrupted.

LH Plumbing has been affected. Their plumbers and staff are having to travel much further now, resulting in longer hours worked and less business completed.

Mr Raja from Style express off-licence and Mr Kandlah from K7 Enterprise Food and off licence both on Vaughan Road and both again directly affected.

Vaughan road letting agency affected every time they visit clients

All shops and businesses are severely affected and again none of them consulted. They are upset and angry. Will they receive compensation? They are already struggling financially due to the pandemic lockdowns. These planters are the final nail in the coffin which they may not be able to recover from.

Vaughan neighbourhood resource centre in the heart of West Harrow on Wilson Gardens cares for young adults with autism and learning difficulties. By closing the roads their journey times have increased greatly which can result in increased levels of stress and anxiety, with knock on affects resulting in physical violence and self-harm, and the potential to have them withdrawn from the council run services.

There are several residents who attend the West Harrow allotments near West Harrow Tube station. Several older or less abled plot holders are now faced with having to drive much longer journeys to tend their plots. Several plot holders have regularly turned back home as they cannot face sitting in long traffic queues some days.

5. Freedom of choice in a democratic country and lack of consultation

- Residents and stakeholders are the best people to know their roads and how they use them, they should have been consulted before any major changes that have impacted all of our lives. Residents are not rat runners – we live here
- The council have consulted stakeholder groups like green campaigners and cycle activists. Who spoke to West Harrow residents and businesses?

6. Pollution:

- Increased traffic volumes on main roads cause greater problems for walkers/pedestrians trying to cross the main roads.
- North Harrow shops has now become a less appealing place to shop, due to bumper to bumper stationary traffic producing more emissions.
- Lorries are now parking up close to the Vaughan road planters on the double yellow lines and white zigzag zones, creating a hazard for all

In Summary

As residents and stakeholders we know West Harrow best. Many have lived here for decades, some all their lives. We hope you listen and understand our concerns but this really cannot continue.

You have trialled the LTN04 in West Harrow, and we have now shown it does not work for us.

Please relieve us of this additional stress and anxiety, in what is already an extremely stressful time, and before it is too late for some.

We ask the TARSAP panel to take all our concerns seriously, and please remove LTN04 now.

Thank you

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