

FAQs Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

NB: this is a live document and will be updated to include additional FAQ's as and when common issues are identified through feedback from various channels

What is a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN)?

LTNs are areas designed to restrict through traffic to create quieter roads which feel safer, encouraging residents to walk, cycle, play and meet in a healthier and more inviting environment, as well as improving air quality. This can be done by filtering roads using planters, bollards or cameras, by banning turns, or by making some roads no entry or exit. Residents and businesses can still use cars, as well as receive visitors and deliveries, but non-local traffic cannot drive through the area.

When non-local through traffic is reduced in an area, local people often choose to make short journeys on foot or by bike, further reducing traffic.

What is a modal filter?

A modal filter is a traffic management measure that stops the majority of motor vehicles passing but allows pedestrians and cyclists through.

We have installed 2 types of modal filters based on the specific location:

Type 1 = Planters and drop-down bollards/barriers (see example in photo below). These are used on roads that are not on emergency service priority routes or the bus network. A number of wooden planters with either trees or plants in them have been placed on the carriageway either side of a drop-down bollard or barrier.



Type 2 = Camera enforced (see example below). These are used at locations on bus routes which will restrict all traffic apart from buses, emergency service vehicles and exempt vehicles.



How are LTNs enforced?

Some of the LTN filters are enforced by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras and vehicles travelling through these restrictions that are not exempt will automatically be issued a penalty charge notice (PCN). An ANPR camera scans the number plate of a vehicle at the closure point and informs us if a vehicle requires a penalty notice or is exempt. Other LTN filters are enforced through a physical barrier.

How do people living in the LTN access their home by vehicle?

Direct access to all properties by vehicle is maintained, but the restrictions may require a different route to be taken to get to your property or business. Some journeys may take longer and the access point to your property may change. Some people may be inconvenienced by some of the changes and some people will choose to walk or cycle instead of taking the car. However, we recognise that this may not be an option for some people therefore it is still possible to access your property by vehicle. The scheme ensures that access for deliveries, refuse collection and emergency services is retained.

Why was the Lewisham and Lee Green area prioritised for an LTN?

The Lewisham and Lee Green area was selected as a location for an LTN in part due to ongoing and consistent concerns raised with the Council by residents over a number of years about traffic congestion, traffic speeds, road safety and number of collisions, as well as walking and cycling improvements.

What monitoring have you done?

Since the LTN was launched, the Council has been undertaking monitoring to understand how the LTN is operating, its impact and whether it is achieving its aims. We have reviewed data for traffic

levels, vehicle speeds, air quality and bus journey times. A full monitoring report is available at www.lewisham.gov.uk/ltnconsultation.

We have also been working closely with the emergency services to understand any impact the scheme has had in relation to emergency responses.

Why don't you have a complete set of data?

If the Lewisham and Lee Green LTN had been introduced in usual times we would have undertaken full before and after monitoring and had data that was fully comparable. Unfortunately, due to the timescales and expectations set by central government, councils were expected to rapidly introduce measures that would reallocate roadspace to walking and cycling without the full range of traffic studies and preparatory work that would normally be done for such measures.

We have done as much as we can to provide comparable data in the consultation leaflet. All other data collected as part of the scheme is available in the monitoring report, which can be accessed via www.lewisham.gov.uk/ltnconsultation.

What feedback have you already had?

We have been listening to feedback ever since the LTN was introduced, including through the commonplace website. We've had regular meetings and contact with the emergency services; we have changed signage in response to feedback, and initial feedback last year led to significant changes being made to the LTN. We've also had positive feedback from local residents and campaign groups. All of this feedback – along with that gathered via this consultation – will help us to make a decision about the long term future of the LTN.

Who are you consulting on the Lewisham and Lee Green LTN?

The consultation is open to all and we welcome your insight and opinions, which will be valuable in deciding the future of the LTN. We would like to hear from all members of the community.

We have also engaged with a wide range of groups, including local representative groups, disability groups, public transport operators, schools, places of worship and health providers so we can get a wider pool of respondents. Our stakeholder list includes all of the following:

- Local residents and businesses
- Ward Councillors
- Emergency services (London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service and Metropolitan Police)
- Local schools;
- Transport for London (TfL)
- Representatives of taxi companies;
- Representatives of motorcyclist groups;
- Freight and haulage organisations;
- Network Rail
- Local stakeholder and resident groups
- Neighbouring authorities and;
- Disability groups.

Why are you consulting now?

We promised we would ask residents about their experiences of the LTN, as we were unable to consult before the measures went in. Ideally we would wait until traffic volumes and the way we use our roads goes back to normal – but we don't know when that will be. It's likely the impact of the

pandemic will be felt for some time, so we feel that now is the right time to ask people for their opinion.

How can I comment on the scheme?

We are running our consultation on the Lewisham and Lee Green LTN from 28th June 2021 until 23:59pm on 8th August 2021. We want you to have your say on our proposals to help better understand the requirements and what would work for the local area.

To provide your feedback, you can complete the online survey through our website, which also has information on our proposals for reference. If you would prefer a hard copy of the survey and consultation leaflet, please let us know by contacting 0330 912 1905.

Who will make a final decision on the future of the LTN?

Council officers will analyse the results of this consultation and prepare a report, which will include the other feedback outlined above, as well as data including air quality and traffic monitoring. The decision will be made by the Mayor and Cabinet following consideration of a report at a meeting in public later this year.

You recently consulted us on plans to reduce traffic near schools. Will you be introducing these measures?

No. After careful consideration, we have decided not to go ahead with those specific measures. Feedback from residents was mixed, with some strongly in favour and some strongly opposed to the approach. However, there was strong support for some sort of road safety measures for children at school start and end times. As such, we are now planning a longer term roll-out of traditional school streets, which have been successful in other parts of the borough and across London. We will do this on a school-by-school basis and share more details in due course.

Which schools did these proposals include?

The schools included in the proposals were:

- St Winifreds' RC School
- Trinity CofE Primary School
- Trinity CofE Secondary School
- Brindishe Lee School
- Brindishe Manor School
- St Saviour's RC School

We will now be working with these schools in relation to introducing traditional school streets where streets are closed to vehicles at school drop off and pick up times.

Further questions

If you have any further questions about the Lewisham and Lee Green LTN, please feel free to contact us at ltn@lewisham.gov.uk