

Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood



September 2020

Like many local authorities across London, Lewisham Council wants to help residents to walk and cycle more. The Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) is one of several schemes being introduced across the borough in response to COVID-19. The aim of the scheme is to support safe walking and cycling, enable social distancing and to provide alternatives to private car use because capacity on public transport is limited.

One of the benefits of lockdown was that air quality dramatically improved – by up to 33% in some parts of Lewisham. More residents were walking in their local area, going to local shops and visiting local parks. Many cycled for the first time, or for the first time in years, and they told us that they wanted to keep the quieter streets that had given them the confidence to do this.

The Department for Transport (DfT) and Transport for London (TfL) recognise the necessity to support walking and cycling in response to COVID-19. They have asked local authorities to act quickly to introduce walking and cycling schemes and to create safe space for social distancing. Without these measures private car use is predicted to rise beyond levels seen before COVID-19, which would lead to an increase in air pollution and congestion. TfL modelling has shown that if nothing is done, car use in central London would double, and car journeys outside central London would also increase.

Lewisham Council's long term transport strategy and climate commitments support a shift away from private car use and toward sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling and public transport. Fewer than 50 per cent of Lewisham households own a car, but we are all affected by poor air quality, congestion and noise pollution. Driving less and walking more can improve our health and wellbeing, which is now more important than ever. While not every journey can be made without a car, we want to enable all those

who can, to walk or cycle, freeing up space on public transport and roads for those who can't.

We recognise that some of the measures we have introduced have raised issues which need to be addressed. We are listening to feedback and we know that there are some roads where traffic has increased. We will be making changes to try and reduce this and we will share more information about these changes in the coming weeks.

The Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN)

The Lewisham and Lee Green LTN includes a series of 'modal filters' (bollards and planters) which prevent most motorised vehicles from passing through. All properties are accessible by vehicle, though the routes which were previously used may have needed to change and could take longer. We have liaised with the emergency services and have installed camera enforced modal filters on priority emergency service routes (and bus routes).

This is the first of a series of LTNs that will be introduced as part of Lewisham Council's response to COVID-19. LTNs aim to reduce traffic on all roads, not just on the roads where measures are put in place. By creating quieter streets, LTNs encourage walking and cycling and discourage unnecessary car journeys. 60 per cent of all journeys in London are less than 2.5 miles. Therefore, if we can reduce the number of short journeys taken by car in Lewisham, we can reduce traffic on all our roads.



Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood

	Existing filters /closures		Proposed School Street (timed closures) <i>St Winifred's Primary</i>
	Modal filters		Lewisham to Lee cycleway
	Camera enforced modal filter. Access only for emergency services, local buses and cycles.		School
	Reversal of existing one-way road		Station
			Borough boundary

Borough-wide measures

In May, we started work on developing temporary measures to help facilitate social distancing to support walking and cycling walking and cycling. These included:

- 19 modal filters in the Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood and in other priority areas
- Pavement widening in busy public places
- A bike loan scheme for COVID-19 critical workers

Going forwards we will be:

- Introducing 26 school streets
- Helping businesses with more space for outdoor seating
- Cycle training for all abilities and ages
- Working with TfL to introduce segregated cycle routes on strategic routes

We will explore introducing further measures subject to funding and resources.



FAQs

Thank you to everyone who has provided feedback and sent in questions so far. We know that lots of you have questions about the scheme. We're doing our best to respond to any urgent queries, regularly updating the FAQs on our Commonplace website and providing responses to key issues through the weekly Commonplace news updates. Here's a summary of the top questions below.

Are you listening to local concerns?

We are listening carefully to the feedback we've received and will make changes in response to this. As a result of the feedback already received, we have installed additional signs to warn drivers in advance of the closure points, we are working with Sat Nav providers to ensure they avoid directing motorists down closed routes, we installed additional bollards to stop drivers mounting the footway and we put enforcement cameras in place in early August.

These measures are adding to traffic and air pollution on my road.

We know that some of the roads outside the Lewisham and Lee Green LTN have been busier. It is expected that it will take time for drivers to adjust their behaviour in response to these changes. We have full sympathy with those who may be experiencing more traffic on their roads but we are confident that the impact on surrounding areas will ease and we will take steps to ensure that it does. We have baseline measurements on traffic volume and air quality and will be taking comparative measurements in the months ahead. Further air quality monitoring locations are being added.

What are you going to do about traffic on surrounding roads?

We will be exploring the roll-out of similar traffic reduction measures across the borough this autumn,

including areas adjacent to the Lewisham and Lee Green LTN. We are also launching the first phase of our borough-wide School Streets in September. Please sign up for updates on our Commonplace website to keep up to date with future proposals.

TfL are due to implement a number of measures along a 2km stretch on the A21 to improve public transport, cycling and walking routes. We are currently discussing the final details with them to ensure any potential impacts on our residents and our network are mitigated.

What are you doing to enforce these measures?

We have installed enforcement cameras on bus routes and priority emergency service routes. We will issue fines to owners of prohibited vehicles driving through these barriers.

If you see a camera which has been vandalised, please report this. It is a criminal offence to vandalise council property and anyone who attempts to damage cameras will be reported to the police.

Will these measures be permanent?

These are temporary measures. However, at this preliminary stage, we are gathering data and collating feedback from residents. This will inform the decision as to whether the measures should be made permanent or adapted.

Share your ideas

If you have any questions or queries, or would like to share your ideas about the measures we have introduced or may be introducing in the future, please head to the Commonplace website at: lewishamcovidtransport.commonplace.is

If your comment or query is in direct response to A21 construction works please contact: streetspacelondon@tfl.gov.uk

Councillors for Lee Green, Lewisham Central, Rushey Green, Catford South and Whitefoot are working together to review and improve these plans.