

The Highbury West and Highbury Fields LTNs have now been up and running for nearly 3 weeks, and whilst we have worked hard to try and man the new "camera gates" and raise awareness with motorists that the scheme has launched and cameras have gone live, we have seen quite a bit of chaos! Some of the road closure signage provided by the council was inadequate, and whilst Islington has now taken steps to remedy this, motorists continue to be confused as to which roads they are now barred from.

Traffic, including at pinch points like Rock Street, Drayton Park and Highbury Grove, has been heavy at times, with anecdotal reports of some journeys taking up to 5 times longer than pre LTNs. This has inevitably left motorists feeling upset and frustrated. Major road works on Seven Sisters, Drayton Park and Highbury Grove has not helped. We are still in lockdown, and so for now the traffic is uncharacteristically light.

Sooner or later, as we are released from lockdown and more normal life resumes that will change.

Islington Council has packaged LTNs as People Friendly Streets. Obviously whether they could indeed be said to be "people friendly "depends very much on where you live or work. Highbury people who live and work on the main roads are excluded from this "people friendly" vision. They will instead suffer the extra pollution generated by idling cars in backed up traffic. It does seem to us that "People Friendly" streets are only friendly for some, not for all.

HAVE YOUR SAY:

OBJECT to publicrealm@islington.co.uk (saying which Highbury LTN you object to and why)

EMAIL: peoplefriendlystreets@islington.gov.uk

Complete the Councils online feedback survey, make a formal complaint on the Islington Council website and contact your local councillors.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR KHM. AND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR WEBSITE

We have seen the numerous anecdotal accounts on social media of the upset that these Highbury LTN's has caused, including some sad accounts, particularly those highlighting the negative impact on our disabled community and our local businesses.

At our inception we launched a Petition for the council to include ANPR exemption from fines for residents. We quickly realised that this should also include drivers for local businesses, blue badge holders, delivery drivers, business permit holders and taxis; broadly all those who are connected to and serve our community. We have highlighted this in our leaflet that we have distributed across Highbury.

Islington has always been known as a friendly and buzzing borough. We in Highbury are a close-knit community filled with a fantastic mix of people, ranging from born and bred Londoners to those who have fallen in love with Highbury and chosen to settle here.

We feel that in focussing on excluding out of borough "rat runners" from our roads the council has overlooked those drivers on our Highbury roads who have a real connection with Highbury.

Our PETITION has already been signed by thousands of people in our community. Thank you very much to those who have signed it and have spread the word, please keep doing so! Please also follow us on twitter @HighburyKeep. Thank you for your continued support, by working together we can Keep Highbury Moving.

