

To: Transportconsultations@camden.gov.uk.
CC: Simi Shah, Sam Margolis and Steve Cardno

Public Realm & Road Safety Improvements on Cartwright Gardens

This response to the consultation on Public Realm & Road Safety Improvements on Cartwright Gardens is from Camden Cycling Campaign, the local borough group of London Cycling Campaign. We represent the interests of cyclists living or working in Camden and aim to expand the opportunities for all to cycle safely in the borough. We have discussed this consultation by email and online (using Cyclescape).

Introduction

Cartwright Gardens is the middle section of the road that runs south from Euston Road, the top section being called Mabledon Place and the bottom section Marchmont Street. This is part of an existing primary cycle route in Camden's borough-wide cycle network. Therefore nothing should be done to degrade conditions for cycling on this alignment.

Our response to the proposals

We support the proposal to install a new 2-m wide footway on the west side of Cartwright Gardens adjacent to the green space because it will improve conditions for people who walk. However, this support depends on the conditions we explain below.

The loss of 2-m of road space would make conditions worse for people who cycle. In particular:

- The carriageway will be only just over 4m wide alongside the parking bay, the E.V. charging points and the footway widening outside the Hall of Residence.
- The plan shows that beside the cycle hire station southbound traffic, including cycles, will have to wait for oncoming traffic, thus giving northbound motors priority which may lead to aggressive behaviour if a cyclist is caught in the no-man's land.

Following Camden's transport user hierarchy it would be correct to take road space away from motor vehicles so as to improve conditions for walking and cycling. This can be done very simply by making Cartwright Gardens one way for motor vehicles between Leigh Street and Hastings Street.

We leave it to LB Camden to decide which is the preferable direction for one-way traffic but note the following:

- Drivers going via Judd Street to Euston Road usually use Hastings Street or Bidborough Street and it is preferable that they should not travel via Leigh Street and Cartwright Gardens – which implies one-way southbound.
- Measures may need to be taken to avoid adding rat-running through the crescent road on the west side of the Cartwright Gardens green space.
- A marked cycle contraflow lane will be required.

Summary

Our support for the provision of a new 2-m wide footway on the west side of Cartwright Gardens is conditional on making Cartwright Gardens one way for motor traffic.

Please acknowledge receipt of this response. We would be very happy to discuss any aspect of our comments. Our contact details are below.

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