

To:safetravel@camden.gov.uk

Swains Healthy Streets scheme

This response to the consultation on making permanent the Summer 2020 changes in Swains Lane Healthy Streets scheme 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 at a committee meeting.

We believe that no motor vehicles should be allowed to travel through Swains Lane because it is a very popular route for walking and cycling to and from Waterlow Park, Highgate Cemetery and Highgate Village. The footways are narrow and people often need to walk in the road. When cycling up such a steep hill, it is very unpleasant to be pushed to the side as motor vehicles pass. Swains Lane has no essential function in the road hierarchy from Camden Transport Strategy 2019 in other words, it is an access road. To quote from the consultation:

The volume of traffic travelling northbound on Swain's Lane made the road dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly for those accessing the Cemetery and Waterlow Park, where the pavement is very narrow (as little as 0.6m in some places)

The changes have resulted in a 17% decrease of total traffic volumes on Swain's Lane
Daily counts are 1951 before the changes and 1506 (adjusted) after the changes

This reduction just isn't good enough and motor traffic speeds remain very high. Drivers arriving at Pond Square either ignore the turn ban or make circuitous journeys via South Grove; adding to traffic numbers on these roads. We therefore ask Camden Council to replace the current scheme with an ANPR enforced road closure that will make the necessary allowances (e.g. for refuse collection) so that the scheme is feasible. If this is not done, we believe that the scheme should be taken out as it appears to do more harm than good.

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

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