

To Healthy.School.Streets@camden.gov.uk; Jon Legge

Three new Healthy School Streets Consultations Oct 2022

1. West Hampstead Primary School
Dornfell Street, Ravenshaw Street, Broomsleigh Street and Glastonbury Street
2. Maria Fidelis Catholic School
Doric Way and Drummond Crescent.
3. Maria Montessori School
Lyndhurst Gardens
St Christopher's School
Belsize Lane

This response to the consultation on the above proposals from Camden Council is from Camden Cycling Campaign, the local borough group of London Cycling Campaign. We represent the interests of cyclists living or working in or travelling through Camden and aim to expand the opportunities for all to cycle safely in the borough. We have discussed this consultation in our committee by email.

In principle we support all proposals to restrict motor traffic on streets outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times, making the roads safer, improving air quality and encouraging parents and children to walk, cycle or scoot. Therefore we support all of these Healthy School Streets Schemes. We have some additional comments as follows:

For all the schemes, we believe that exemptions should be kept to a minimum and so we do not support exemptions for residents except in exceptional circumstances (e.g. blue badge holders).

1. West Hampstead Primary School

We very much welcome this scheme which doesn't just apply to the street with the school entrance but also applies to a web of surrounding roads.

Therefore we strongly support the proposal to include the two streets (Ravenshaw Street and Broomsleigh Street) that form a wide loop starting from and ending at Mill Lane as well as the two streets that span the loop (Dornfell Street with the school entrance and Glastonbury Street).

The proposal for two-way cycling through Dornfell Street is long overdue – why should pupils on bikes be restricted to one way in and one way out? Therefore we strongly support the proposal and commend the protected entry and exit treatments.

We also support the proposal to install two cycle hangars.

2. Maria Fidelis Catholic School

We also welcome this scheme for Maria Fidelis school whose entrance is on a one-way loop through Doric Way and Drummond Crescent starting and ending on Eversholt Street, with the school entrance about half way round. As above, the proposal for two-way cycling through Doric Way and Drummond Crescent is long overdue and we strongly support it.

We also support the proposal for two bikehangars and for cycle parking outside the school.

Parents, children and staff walking or cycling to Maria Fidelis school are most likely to have arrived through Somerstown and will use the cut through from Chalton Street (labelled Churchway on Google maps). We believe it could be helpful to have a sign to the school pointing through here even if bikes need to be pushed – the width is about 3m and we ask Camden to consider whether considerate cycling could be permitted.

The consultation notes that the bollard closure to Churchway will remain. The road surface through here is formed of rough cobbles – unpleasant for cycling. We ask Camden to consider improving the surface and the visibility of the cycle logos on the bollards.

3. Maria Montessori School

We support the provision of a Healthy School Street on Lyndhurst Gardens between its junctions with Lyndhurst Road and Wedderburn Road and the provision of two new bikehangars on Lyndhurst Road.

St Christopher's School

We support the provision of a Healthy School Street on Belsize Lane between its junctions with Wedderburn Road and Ornan Road / Belsize Lane and the provision of two new bikehangars on Wedderburn Road.

Parents, children and staff cycling to these two schools should be able to benefit from the new protected cycle route on Haverstock Hill. However there is heavy motor traffic (rat running between Haverstock Hill and Fitzjohns Avenue) on the roads connecting Haverstock Hill to the roads being treated as School Streets. We therefore ask Camden to consider extending the timed closures to include the section of Belsize Lane between Lyndhurst Gardens and Haverstock Hill which would provide quiet links between Haverstock Hill and both schools.

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

Jean Dollimore

jean@camdencyclists.org.uk

Camden Cycling Campaign, 1 Estelle Road, London NW3 2JX