

NEW Highbury East LTN

Islington Council have drafted proposals for a new LTN, now called 'Liveable Neighbourhood' (LN), not yet on the Islington website.

- Called Highbury New Park LN but including Riversdale and Mountgrove.
- Unclear if Petherton will be affected. Implementation 2025?
- All roads to be blocked between Green Lanes/Stokey and Highbury Grove/Blackstock
 - only access via St Pauls and Brownswood Roads

Likely closures at junctions of:

- Highbury Quadrant & Riversdale *or* Riversdale & Blackstock
- Riversdale/Mountgrove & Green Lanes *or* Mountgrove & Blackstock
- Highbury Grange & Balfour
- Grosvenor & Highbury Grove (or alternatives)
- *All East-West access to be only via Brownswood and St Pauls Roads*
 - *Details may change but result will not*

St Pauls junction with Highbury Grove

- New left turn into St Pauls from Highbury Grove and right turn from St Pauls into Highbury Grove. Council admits very complex.
- Same planning team that brought us Highbury Corner
- Demolition of corner building and/or Alwyn Castle garden required?
- Very expensive, possibly £3-4m because of land purchase
- Big extra delays entering St Pauls, traffic turning left not able to use Grosvenor
- Big extra delays in St Pauls, traffic turning right into Highbury Grove blocking route to Highbury Corner
- THIS IS A BAD IDEA – a very expensive way of making traffic worse, especially buses

Brownswood Road

- Highbury traffic to be diverted to Brownswood in Hackney
- Extra congestion as single lanes in Blackstock, Brownswood and Green Lanes mean traffic turning right holds up ALL traffic
- Green Lanes going south delayed by extra traffic turning right into Brownswood, no longer able to use Riversdale or Highbury New Park
- Brownswood going east delayed by extra traffic turning right into Green Lanes, no longer able to use Riversdale or Highbury New Park
- Blackstock turning into Brownswood going north will slow all traffic

No real advantages

- Traffic is now very light in Highbury East,
- Not a major cycling route
- Controls in place now: school hours, 20 mph, emissions, road bumps
- Through traffic much reduced by Highbury West LTNs
- Key problem for walkers is the state of pavements

What are the disadvantages?

- Slower peak hour buses for all
 - all routes on Blackstock, Brownswood, Green Lanes, St Pauls
- Vital services impacted
 - taxis, deliveries, building repairs, etc – increasing costs for suppliers and customers
- Severe business impact – loss of customers and increased costs – more empty shops
- Major increase in pollution and congestion in Brownswood and St Pauls
- No recognition of needs of car drivers, for work, for the less mobile, for those with young children

MINIMUM GAIN, MAXIMUM PAIN, MAXIMUM COST

CONSULTATION

- The Council claims they 'will engage with local people', but history shows they only recognise the views of those that agree with them, surveys are very biased, business views completely ignored.
- Questionnaires need to be unbiased, informative and validated by all interested parties
- Sampling needs to be random, not self selected
- The costs of proper consultation will be very small compared with St Pauls Road costs
- A local referendum would be best

THE CHALLENGE FOR HIGHBURY GREEN PARTY COUNCILLORS

Greens want to reduce traffic but:

- Do they really think the St Pauls changes are the best way to spend?
 - What about impact on bus services, need for better pavements, electric charge points, solar panels on Council properties?
- Do they really think that consultation processes will be adequate?
- Will they represent the needs of ALL their constituents and businesses and not just the fit cycling community?
- Will they arrange a ward meeting to discuss this?

Please email your views and action ideas to keephighburymoving@gmail.com

Write to your Highbury Councillors

caroline.russell@islington.gov.uk

ernestas.jegorovas-armstrong@islington.gov.uk

benali.hamdache@islington.gov.uk

If you live in Hackney near Brownswood and don't want Islington's pollution and congestion, write to your councillors:

soraya.adejare@hackney.gov.uk

clare.potter@hackney.gov.uk

A liveable neighbourhood in the 'Highbury New Park' area

- We have committed to delivering liveable neighbourhoods across the borough to create cleaner, greener and healthier streets. It is our intention to develop plans for a liveable neighbourhood in the 'Highbury New Park' area between Highbury Barn, Brownswood Road, Green Lanes and St Paul's Road. This area includes Riversdale Road.
- In addition to developing public realm improvement measures such as street greening and better pavements and crossings, it is proposed that the liveable neighbourhood scheme will prevent through-traffic cutting through local streets in this area including Riversdale Road, while retaining vehicle access to all addresses.
- We will be engaging with local people in due course to gather their views on how we should improve the streets in the 'Highbury New Park' area. This will enable us to develop and consult on plans for a liveable neighbourhood scheme for the area.
- Our approach to liveable neighbourhoods is to introduce an area-wide scheme covering the local streets across a neighbourhood area. The rationale for delivering an area-wide scheme is to avoid introducing measures that would simply push traffic from one local street to the next, and instead to address the issue of through-traffic across the whole neighbourhood. The 'Highbury New Park' area is a large area and the project is expected to take time to develop.
- In order to develop a liveable neighbourhood scheme in the 'Highbury New Park' area, we believe we will also need to address an issue with existing banned turns which currently constrain vehicle movements at the junction of Highbury Grove and St Paul's Road. These banned turns would prevent traffic from circulating around the area on the main road network if we implemented a liveable neighbourhood.
- We are currently testing the feasibility of redesigning the junction of Highbury Grove and St Paul's Road. The aim of these design proposals is to improve traffic movement along St Paul's Road and Highbury Grove in addition to making the junction safer for people walking and cycling. This is a complex project and it is expected to take time before we understand the feasibility of making changes to this junction. (Note added: this refers to the potentially very disruptive and expensive plan for a left turn from Highbury Grove into St Pauls Road and right turn from St Pauls into Highbury Grove)
- Please be assured that we will be engaging with people in the local area in due course to help us develop for plans for a liveable neighbourhood in the area...