

Dear Chair,

On behalf of the 4 Roads Group, whose members are campaigning to reduce the traffic in the Dartmouth Park area and in particular on Chetwynd Road, I am writing to request a 3 minute slot for a speaker from our group to make representations about our concerns regarding Chetwynd Road and some of the surrounding streets in the Dartmouth Park area.

This is in connection with the deputation being led by the Highgate Society to Camden Council's Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee regarding the Dartmouth Park Healthy Neighbourhood Scheme's proposals.

Since the 1980's, the residents of Chetwynd Road have been campaigning to stop Chetwynd Road being used as a rat-run. Despite it being a narrow residential street, it is the most congested residential street in North London, with a staggering **2.1 million** vehicles passing up and down it per annum. (see Camden Council Surveys ). An FOI requested by us, shows that the resultant air pollution is 154% above WHO safe levels, with Chetwynd Road seeing the highest increase in NO2 in the area. **That is inclusive of major arterial A/ B roads in the area.**

Additionally, we have 1km of permitted pavement parking on Chetwynd Road with cars blocking our footways, forcing school children, the elderly and wheelchair users onto Camden's busiest and most polluted road.(Pavement parking was banned across London in 1974, almost 50 years ago). The traffic situation is so bad that Chetwynd Road features the only junction in Camden (if not in London) where traffic lights are used to control traffic where two residential roads cross. Cars are routinely damaged, there is daily shouting in the street as drivers vie to get up and down the street. Pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles are continually at risk on this busy road.

There are in excess of 6 schools in this area.

We support Camden Council's endeavour to improve the dire traffic situation on Chetwynd Road. But in our view, their proposals *do not go far enough*. By proposing to turn Chetwynd Road into a one-way traffic system, it will mean that 1 million cars will continue to come down this street, when the Council has headlined its proposals as 'safe and healthy'. Their proposals are neither safe nor healthy as this will increase the speed of motorists, guarantee ongoing dangerous levels of pollution and will be dangerous for pedestrians. Chetwynd Road, under this scheme, will continue to be treated by the Council as an A road and an artery for through traffic, when Chetwynd Road, by the Council's own admission, is a residential street, not an 'A' road.

We are requesting that the through traffic be stopped on Chetwynd Road and that there be increased road safety - with slower speeds on all streets, making streets child-friendly spaces. Traffic should be displaced on to the bigger surrounding trunk roads which were built for heavy through traffic, rather than being funnelled down a

narrow residential road, where a significant number of residents reside, including many children.

Finally, the 4 Roads Group, in the last 3 weeks, sent a questionnaire to the residents in Chetwynd Road. So far, 45 households have responded. The results provide illuminating reading: for example, 100% of the respondents said that they consider pollution to be an issue on Chetwynd Road and 68.9% said that they have experienced health issues related to air pollution. We will send the results of this questionnaire to Camden Councillors shortly.

Whilst we appreciate the efforts of Camden Council to improve the traffic system in the area, with the seriousness of our situation, could we please request that a speaker from our group be given a slot of 3 minutes to talk about this matter at the deputation being led by the Highgate Society and to make representations on behalf of the residents of this intolerably congested, polluted street.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Claire Kavanagh

Chair

The 4 Roads Group