

Deputation to Camden Council Monday 13th July 2026

We are Our Patch, a group of people living between Tuffnell Park, Archway and Highgate. We want our patch to be greener, safer and healthier for everyone.

We're here today because decades of inaction have allowed rat-running and excessive traffic to dominate the roads around Dartmouth Park.

We've brought just a handful of damaged car parts that we regularly find lying in our streets. If drivers can't keep their own cars safe from collisions, what chance do children, older people or other vulnerable residents have?

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Our narrow residential roads are treated as through-routes by commuters travelling east-west and north-south.

Chetwynd Road alone carries around 2.1 million vehicle journeys each year, only a tiny fraction of them made by local residents.

The problem is getting worse as cars themselves get bigger. Vehicles are getting wider; our streets are not.

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The default prioritisation of through-traffic comes at everyone else's expense.

Wheelchair users, older people and parents with buggies struggle with pavement parking on roads like Highgate West Hill and Chetwynd Road.

Children and adults who would like to cycle have no safe, dedicated connections to the borough's wider cycle network.

Heavy traffic also brings serious health consequences. Larger vehicles are more dangerous in collisions and fear of traffic discourages the everyday walking and cycling that keeps people healthy. Professor Stephen Holgate, an expert on air pollution, recently told a House of Commons select committee that 700 out of the 840 diseases in the medical lexicon have now been linked to poor air quality.

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Parts of this neighbourhood already benefit from low-traffic measures.

Residents of Holly Lodge and Dartmouth Park Road enjoy restricted access that still allows them to reach their homes, local shops and hospitals.

Why should those protections apply only to some streets and not to neighbouring communities facing the same problems?

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Councillors already know these issues well. The pause of the Healthy Neighbourhood scheme leaves all the problems in place and still to be addressed.

We're asking the Council to bring forward a new Healthy Neighbourhood scheme for a two year trial.

In the meantime, we ask that any local measures consider the full range of options that can meaningfully reduce through-traffic: more School Streets, timed restrictions, protected cycle routes and targeted street closures, including Upper Swains Lane.

No councillor here has been elected to help drivers from outside Camden shave a few minutes off their commute.

You were elected to protect the health, safety and quality of life of Camden residents.

Thank you.