

STEVE REED MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Councillor Muhammad Ali
Cabinet Member for Sustainable Croydon
Croydon Town Hall
Katharine Street
Croydon CR0 1NX

Our Ref: ZA59808

11 January 2021

Dear Muhammad

Crystal Palace Low Traffic Neighbourhood

Last year the Council launched a consultation on the Crystal Palace Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN). The temporary scheme was highly controversial locally and the Council was right to ask people living in the area whether they want to keep the scheme, remove it, or change it to an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) scheme.

The consultation has now ended with 25.29% of residents responding. This is a high turnout for a traffic scheme consultation which would usually expect a 10-15% response rate. It is also a higher turnout than in the two by-elections since 2018 that elected councillors for Fairfield Ward (22.77%) and Norbury Pollard's Hill Ward (25.26%). Given that this was a high enough turnout to elect councillors, it is disingenuous of the Council report to imply the higher turnout achieved in the consultation does not fairly reflect local opinion.

The results of the consultation from people living in the LTN zone were:

- 26% in favour of changing the scheme to ANPR
- 15% in favour of retaining the existing scheme
- 61% in favour of removing the scheme entirely

It is important for the Council to listen to local people and act on what they say, and in this case you have a very clear response from residents asking you to remove the scheme.

Many residents I've spoken to who oppose the current scheme want to find a better way to reduce traffic and emissions. I suggest that the Council engages in a deliberative process with residents to discuss with them what aspirations they have for their neighbourhood including how best to manage local traffic flows, what levels of local and outside traffic are acceptable to them, and how to reduce emissions to combat climate change as part of this. There are plenty of tried and tested ways to run such a process, which might include a local citizens' assembly or engaging a local community group to run a fully open consultation without preconceived options.

I hope the Council will choose to work with residents in this constructive way to improve their neighbourhood, but in the meantime I trust the Council will follow the clearly expressed views of local people and remove the current scheme.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Reed".

Steve Reed MP

Cc: Cllr Hamida Ali, Cllr Nina Degrad, Cllr Stephen Mann, Cllr Pat Ryan, Members of Croydon Council Traffic Management Advisory Committee

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