

SEPTEMBER 04, 2022

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

save
our
safer
streets



Campaign Overview

It's hard to believe it's only been four weeks since Tower Hamlets' consultation to reverse the Liveable Streets schemes in Bethnal Green, Weavers, Brick Lane and Wapping ended on August 7th!

While we await the results of the consultation, we have been hard at work on **Phase Two of our campaign**. We expect the mayor will announce his decision at the next cabinet meeting on September 28th, and the consultation results would normally be published in the officer report feeding into that meeting. We have good reason to think that the mayor is set on ripping out the new street layouts whatever the consultation outcome (it's in the administration's strategic plan which they agreed at their August cabinet).

Continues on the next page ->

IN THIS ISSUE

CAMPAIGN
OVERVIEW

AUGUST
SUCCESSES

HOW YOU CAN
HELP

WHAT'S NEXT?



This past week we have seen one bollard removed on Clarkson St, which allows cars to cut across from Bethnal Green Road to Cambridge Heath Rd. Arnold Circus has seen fencing removed on the Club Row side, and the ANPR traffic camera on Antill Road in Bow has apparently been disabled.

Whatever the reason for this, it is a sign of what we think is the likely direction of travel for this administration unless we do everything in our power to get them to STOP, LISTEN and IMPROVE, as our petition demands, rather than rushing to remove the traffic reduction schemes.

This is why we must keep pushing in the next few weeks, before a decision is likely taken on September the 28th. The more people who support the campaign, the more impact it will have on the mayor and the council. So please look out for our calls to action and help us grow our voice and our influence. We have to show the mayor we are not just a small handful of loud voices, we are a large and diverse community and we all want to keep our safer streets!

August in Review

Despite many of us being away in August, we have still accomplished a lot this month!

Petition

Our petition, spearheaded by Simon Ramsay, Headteacher at Oaklands School, went live on August 10th. It now stands at over 1,550 signatures, and it is still growing thanks to everyone who is helping us spread the word and grow our reach!

Tower Hamlets is rushing to take out the new street layouts in Bethnal Green, Bow, Brick Lane and Wapping. These changes were brought in to make streets safer, friendlier and healthier, and easier to get around by foot, bike and on public transport.

If you live, work or study in Tower Hamlets sign the petition and ask the council to:

STOP
PLANS TO SCRAP THE NEW ROAD LAYOUTS

LISTEN
TO THE DIVERSE COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS IN OUR BOROUGH

IMPROVE
THE STREET LAYOUTS. KEEP WHAT'S WORKING AND IMPROVE WHERE NEEDED

টাওয়ার হামলেটস বেথনাল গ্রীন, বো, ব্রিক লেন এবং ওয়াপিং-এ নতুন রাস্তার লেআউটগুলি বের করতে চুটে আসছে। রাস্তায় পায়ে হেঁটে, বাইকে এবং পাবলিক ট্রান্সপোর্টে যাওয়া সহজ এবং নিরাপদ, বন্ধুত্বপূর্ণ এবং স্বাস্থ্যকর করার জন্য এই পরিবর্তনগুলি আনা হয়েছিল।

আপনি যদি থাকেন, টাওয়ার হামলেটসে কাজ করেন বা পড়াশোনা করেন তাহলে পিটিশনে স্বাক্ষর করুন এবং কাউন্সিলকে বলুন:

স্টপ নতুন রাস্তার লেআউটগুলি স্ক্র্যাপ করার পরিকল্পনা।

সুনুন আমাদের বoroতে বিভিন্ন সম্প্রদায়ের কাছে

নতুন রাস্তার লেআউট উন্নত করুন এবং যা কাজ করছে তা রাখুন

Learn more: hearttg.uk | Follow us or get in touch: linktr.ee/saferstreets | পিটিশনে স্বাক্ষর করুন QR কোডে স্ক্যান করুন

To sign the petition visit hearttg.uk/petition or scan the QR code



Petition

(continued)

With your help, we are on track to reach 2,000 signatures in a few weeks, which should trigger a 30-minute debate at the next full council session on October 5th.

We have already started to prepare for the full council debate, so we are relying on you and our community across social media to keep our petition going so we can reach and smash through the 2,000 signature target!

Lobbying

Face-to-face conversations make a big difference! This month we have encouraged and helped neighbours to meet their councillors, often for the first time!

We have written [a handy guide](#) to attending a councillor surgery, and we have paired up first-timers with neighbours with more experience.

And we have had good conversations with councillors, which helps them really understand the many ways in which the street schemes have benefited the community.

Evidence

Disappointingly, Tower Hamlets have not responded to many of the FOI requests that we have put in. They are supposed to reply within 20 working days but almost a month later, many people are still waiting for replies.

Fortunately other organisations including the emergency services, Hackney Council and TfL have responded more quickly and so we have started to receive some data. From these FOIs we have some exciting preliminary results to share with you soon on topics such as emergency vehicle response times, traffic volumes and air quality, so watch this space!

TfL have [published their position](#) on Tower Hamlets' consultations to reverse the Liveable Streets schemes. Like us, they are concerned about the lack of evidence and the manner in which the consultation was carried out. If the council goes ahead with their plans to reopen the roads, they point out this will likely be detrimental to bus services and quality of life.



What's next?

- Stay tuned next week! We will be launching the third major pillar of our campaign, and we will really need support for this one!
- We are continuing to push ahead with the petition, councillor surgeries, and building a strong community of support around our safer streets, in preparation for the expected decision point on Wednesday 28th September.
- There will be opportunities to meet and greet at our upcoming events:
 - our community litter pick at Middleton Green on September 10th, 10-11am
 - the Let's Play! kids' play session at the pocket park on Old Bethnal Green Road by Middleton Green, on September 10th, 11am - 12:30pm
- We've got new data and evidence to share with you, so watch this space!



How you can help

- Spread the word about our petition! Help us flyer, share on social media, and speak to your network about why this is an important cause to support.

- Go to a councillor surgery and tell us how it went! The more people go, the more this issue gets pushed up the agenda.
- Watch out for calls to action in our WhatsApp groups and on social media. A new one is coming out next week!

Thank you for your continued support!

Follow us and join the discussion on:

 [SOSSBETHNALGREEN](#)

 [SOSSBG](#)

 SOSSBETHNALGREEN@GMAIL.COM

 [SAVEOLDBGR](#)

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