

Council: Tuesday 19th January 2021

Administration Motion in the name of Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz

Opposing Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and Additional Driving Levies

Council notes that:

1. A number of London Councils, mainly those controlled by the Labour Party, imposed Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) in their boroughs.
2. These LTNs form part of Labour London Mayor Sadiq Khan's *London Streetspace programme*.
3. There are around 200 LTN schemes underway across London, none are in Barnet.
4. Thousands have protested against LTNs in boroughs such as Ealing, whose MP wrote to her Council stating that these LTNs had been "poorly thought through and rushed."
5. A number of LTNs were reversed after surrounding roads saw major surges to congestion. One LTN in a neighbouring borough caused such considerable extra congestion that there was traffic spill-over in Barnet wards such as Brunswick Park.
6. Sadiq Khan has also floated the idea of a daily charge being levied on all cars entering anywhere in London, from anywhere outside.
7. Sadiq Khan increased the Congestion Charge, and proposed extending it into Barnet.
8. TfL, which is Chaired by Sadiq Khan, received two bailouts in 2020.

Council believes that:

1. LTNs have been implemented without being thought through, leading to greater traffic elsewhere in boroughs in which they have been built, with knock-on effects in neighbouring boroughs, and causing difficulty for some emergency service vehicles in those areas.
2. As an outer-London borough, Barnet's businesses, and indeed residents' families, would be damaged by a charge levied on all those entering the city in a car.
3. Decisions, plans and proposals by Sadiq Khan to increase and extend the Congestion Charge, as well as to create a new charge for entering London is an outcome of a mismanaged TfL, throughout Mayor Khan's term.
4. Extra charges such as these will have the greatest negative impact on the poorest in our borough and across London.
5. The Covid pandemic has simply revealed the dire state of TfL's finances, and while it exacerbated their problems, it was not the sole cause of the organisation's financial difficulties.

Council resolves to:

1. Not impose any LTNs on Barnet residents.
2. Call on Sadiq Khan to not levy a new charge for those entering London, or to increase or extend the Congestion Charge, or to threaten Londoners with these actions – which would financially harm Barnet's residents and businesses.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.