

# THE WALWORTH SOCIETY

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Date: 24<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Cllr Richard Livingstone,  
Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport Management and Air Quality,  
Southwark Council,  
160 Tooley St,  
London SE1 2QH.

Dear Cllr Livingstone,

## **Re: Southwark Council: Low Emission Neighbourhood - Walworth**

This is a letter of support from The Walworth Society for the Low Emission Neighbourhood which it is proposed will cover a significant part of the Walworth area.

The Walworth Society is an amenity society that seeks to be a voice for the Walworth area and has over 500 members living in and around SE17. We would like to confirm our full support for, and commitment to, Southwark Council's proposed Low Emission Neighbourhood in Walworth. This is a much-needed scheme in a part of central London which suffers from chronically poor air quality. Levels of PM2.5 and PM10 give concern throughout the length of the Walworth Road itself and levels of NO2 fails the annual mean objective across much of our area; on the Walworth Road itself NO2 levels reach exceedingly high concentrations throughout the year.

Anecdotally as well we receive representations from parents of children living in our area and at the many primary schools in SE17 about the impact of poor air quality on children and their development. Air quality is a particular concern when children and adults are paying visits to the highly polluted Walworth Road (immediately off which St John's Primary School is actually situated). Our area experiences relatively high levels of deprivation and as a result almost everyone shops frequently on the Walworth Road itself which is known for its range of value-for-money shops. This means that people are frequently exposed to these high levels of pollution.

As with many of the local community groups, we have long been concerned about the issue of air quality but have lacked the means to give support to action at a local level.

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We are, therefore, extremely supportive of this draft of measures which seeks to reduce the impact of through traffic and delivery traffic on our area. The situation has been exacerbated in recent years by the emergence and rise in Sat-Navs and Waze and a far greater number of vehicles making their way through our residential streets to make relatively short savings of time on their journeys. These journeys are often made by vans and cabs which are predominantly diesel fuelled.

The proposal to filter some of the most problematic through routes is, therefore, most welcome. Welcome too are the proposals to create pocket parks which will improve the walkability of the Walworth Road and hence help to reduce reliance on motor vehicle journeys.

We would underscore our support for this bid and we will support it in any way we are able. It offers the prospect of significant and substantive change and improvement for an issue that can only be described as a public health emergency.

We very much hope that this bid will be successful.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Leach, Chair, The Walworth Society