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30th 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,

Low Emission Neighbourhood - Walworth

Southwark Living Streets are delighted to be given the opportunity to support the proposed Low Emission Neighbourhood in Walworth.

Southwark Living Streets is a local group of Living Streets (the national charity for everyday walking). We have been in existence since 2004 and have more than 100 members across the borough.

We have long been concerned about air quality across Southwark and in particular in Walworth and along the Walworth Road. The Walworth Road combines being a very important bus corridor with high motor vehicle volumes (averaging up to 10,000 vehicle movements per day in each direction). It exposes the large number of Walworth residents who rely on it as a high street for shopping and as a public transport corridor to extremely high and dangerous levels of NO₂ and concerning levels of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀.

We are confident that the measures proposed will have a real benefit for the Walworth Road in the longer term and serve to improve its air quality. Neighbourhoods in East and West Walworth have been significantly impacted by the increase in through traffic in recent years and would welcome measures to filter traffic towards the main arterial roads. Local residents and shoppers would welcome the creation of pocket parks along the Walworth Road as a way of introducing greenery and reducing pollution. The longer-term proposals to encourage deliveries using less polluting forms of transport such as cargo bikes and electric vehicles will be of tremendous value in reducing the impact that occurs currently from deliveries from principally diesel vehicles.

We very much hope that this bid will be successful and are happy to show our support for it in any way we can.

Yours sincerely

Peter Wright – Chair, Southwark Living Streets