

Appendix 1 – Responses for Sydenham Hill 20mph Scheme Objections

Email Responses

" >> >> Dear Sirs, >> >> We wish to object strongly to the proposals for Sydenham Hill, having lived at xx Sydenham Hill for more than thirty five years. >> >> Your proposals are a huge WASTE of PUBLIC MONEY at a time when our area and the two authorities of Lewisham and Southwark have many more important demands on their resources. >> >> The proposals will be significantly LESS SAFE than the current arrangements. Your proposals will provide a high speed road from the roundabout at the southern end up to the speed camera because of the cycle tracks along both sides. It will be an open road 6 metres wide and the speed cushions will not slow anyone who wants to travel at 30 to 40 mph. >> Also, from our long experience, drivers will not wait behind buses at bus stops but will pull out into oncoming traffic to overtake the bus. We have seen this happen on numerous occasions. >> The road is safer now than it will be after the proposed changes. >> >> Furthermore, as there is virtually zero cycle traffic along the road, installing the cycle tracks will unnecessarily directly contribute to a more dangerous road, as explained above. >> We want it to be on record that these proposals will lead inevitably to more accidents and Southwark and Lewisham councils will be held responsible. >> >> Regards >> >> >> Sent from my iPad ;
Dear sirs If a cycle lane is installed in front of our house, xx Sydenham Hill, we request that the Rediweld Kerb is not installed so that we can pull out of our drive carefully to merge safely with passing traffic. Thank you Sent from my iPad
> Could you please send me a paper version of the traffic orders, the plans of the work, Southwark's reasons for making the changes and all other related documents. > a resident of Sydenham Hill> Regards > "

Dear Sirs, Please may I register my significant concerns with the above scheme. 1. Insufficient road usage data has been used in the design of this scheme. A survey would reveal little or no cycle traffic along Sydenham Hill. Virtually 100% of the cycle traffic ascending the hill comes up College Road and Fountain Drive. Continuing on to Crystal Palace or going down Westwood Hill. And those cyclists descending follow the same path. The reason for this is the more gentle gradient. So the inclusion of cycle lanes along Sydenham Hill makes no logical sense and must have a very poor / non existent cost benefit analysis. 2. I am very concerned about the young children crossing Sydenham Hill from the bus stop. The proposal does not reflect the real behaviour of young people. The current arrangement of the central island may not appear to be a suitably safe means of crossing but in reality it protects the children and allows them a safe haven in the middle of the road. The removal of the central island WILL endanger lives and this is completely unacceptable. I find it amazing that this scheme, which is sold as improving safety, will significantly increase the chances of a fatal accident. 3. I am very concerned about the cost of this scheme where there is so little benefit to those that live or travel along this road. We are all about to suffer an inflationary period combined with recession so the cost concerns of the council tax payers should be given more importance at this time. As far as I am aware no information has been provided as to the cost of this scheme. This deeply concerns me as I do not feel there has been full disclosure of all aspects of this scheme. Along with poor impact on safety it makes no sense to spend a load of money

making the road more unsafe. 4. Finally, the safety concerns of the residents provided at the consultation event have been completely ignored. What's the point of consultation when constructive ideas are completely ignored. Please reconsider this scheme. Yours faithfully, (Sydenham Hill resident) Sent from my iPad

Dear Sir / Madam, We share others' views that these changes seem to be an attempt to fix a problem that does not exist, and at likely considerable cost at a time when money for most of us is scarce. From observations and experience elsewhere within Southwark, we are concerned that these improvements are likely to cause extensive and prolonged traffic disruption and heightened pollution during transition works - including on Sydenham Hill / Crystal Palace Parade and South Circular. The additional yellow lines will reduce already limited parking and probably displace this on to side roads, including Dome Hill Park. And indeed the current parking along the street on both sides typically does create de-facto one-way situations that force traffic to slow and sometimes (e.g. in the face of oncoming buses) stop and wait. The speed cameras adjacent to Woodsyre are now well established and do slow traffic westbound before the blind bend (and bus stop just beyond this bend). So why change? We'd be grateful for your feedback. Thanks and all the best. Dome Hill Park London

Dear Southwark roads team Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on these proposals to change the road layout on Sydenham Hill. We have lived in Dome Hill Park for over 20 years now and have a keen interest in ensuring that Sydenham Hill is safe for all users, notably the many school children who alight at the Dome Hill Park bus stop and need to cross over to descend Rock Hill. As a general matter, we believe that things work perfectly well at present. The addition of the traffic camera has had a huge impact in reducing speeding around the corner on the way towards Crystal Palace, and the traffic island by the bus stop also works well to facilitate crossing. The school buses arrive at a relatively busy time anyway, so traffic is moving slowly and cars always stop to allow the children across via the island. The recent changes to the Highway Code will also have a positive impact as they enshrine the priority of pedestrians and cyclists over cars, and there are not many cyclists in practice. Against this backdrop, and with the disastrous financial impact of the pandemic followed now by the cost of living crisis, we would like to ask how much this remodelling of the road is going to cost? We cannot imagine that any resulting benefits are sufficient to justify that cost. By way of example, the well-intentioned remodelling of the roundabout at the end of Sydenham Hill near Crystal Palace installed special cycle lanes at enormous cost, which cyclists do not use as they prefer to use the main road anyway. Similarly here, if the bus stop is now moved further along, we doubt whether the children will bother to walk back to the new zebra crossing. Instead they will look to cross the road immediately, which is much more dangerous than the present arrangement with the traffic island. The proposed works will have a significant short term impact, causing traffic chaos and pollution while they are completed - another reason against the project. The proposal to ban all parking along Sydenham Hill is not practical or fair to local residents. We have already seen that when double yellow lines were installed outside Bluebell Close, residents continued to park there anyway, resulting in a stand off, with the council ultimately forced to rescind those measures. We need to allow people to park. And finally, when Council funds are so tight (as they are at present), there are many better

ways to spend this money to have a positive impact on our community. We must prioritise effectively. Sydenham Hill is a relatively main road and the traffic camera and traffic island (which were no doubt carefully considered at the time) provide perfectly adequate safety measures in the current circumstances. Many thanks

Dear Southwark council, Lewisham Cyclists, part of the London Cycling Campaign, would like to view the documents, plans and maps for the aforementioned Traffic order. Please could you provide electronic copies of these, or arrange a suitable time for which we can view them at either your office or Lewisham Council offices. Many thanks Coordinator Lewisham Cyclists

Dear Coco Are there any drawings to accompany this order? I find it very hard to picture with just the written description.