

BLOOMSBURY RESIDENTS' ACTION GROUP

PROOF OF EVIDENCE 15

Pedestrian Accidents and Safety

1. Data

The data on pedestrian accident information is contained in Proof of Evidence 6.

2. Dangers to pedestrians in surrounding streets

As well as the question of pedestrian safety along the corridor, attention should also be given to the pedestrian experience in surrounding streets. As for cyclists, pedestrians now find themselves having to cross jammed streets, when emergency vehicles, motor cycles and cycles are driving the wrong way down the street to avoid congestion (see videos), and where cars are doing u-turns to escape the queues. The videos will demonstrate the chaos in surrounding streets, owing to displaced traffic, showing how difficult it can be for pedestrians to cross safely.

3. Statement from two local residents, including concern about pedestrians.

Torrington Tavistock Trial Public Enquiry

ETO Dangers and Health Risks for Pedestrians and Residents

- a) As long term residents and council tax payers in an area affected by the ETO, we wish to make the following observations:
- i) Despite Camden's stated aim of prioritising pedestrians, the experimental road layout is confusing and dangerous for pedestrians. There are many near-miss collisions with cyclists that do not appear in any statistics.
 - ii) **It would be far preferable to have two-way vehicle traffic** along the Torrington-Tavistock corridor at the minor expense of slightly narrowing the two new cycle lanes. This would greatly assist legitimate road users, particularly the Emergency Services, taxis and delivery vehicles.
 - iii) The ETO has **harmful effects on the health of pedestrians and residents:** noise and air pollution from traffic displaced into adjacent residential streets (e.g. West side of Tavistock Square, Endsleigh Street and Endsleigh Gardens – where there are lengthy stationary tailbacks) have increased greatly. In addition we now have polluting double decker tour buses slowly trying to negotiate the unsuitable North arm of Tavistock Square. Please see Camden's own figures for the increase in traffic along Endsleigh Street, and the results of the *post hoc* air quality monitoring in Endsleigh Gardens. In their Statement of Case Camden seem to play down this increase in traffic and pollution as a price worth paying.
 - iv) This part of Bloomsbury is a mixed area with a large residential component, and the interests and needs of transient cyclists should not be prioritised to the detriment of the quality of everyday life of pedestrians and residents.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Evelyn Abberton and Professor Adrian Fourcin
5 September 2017

4. The following photos illustrate increased risks to pedestrians for displaced traffic.

Handel Street



Judd Street



Hunter Street



Endsleigh Gardens

