

BLOOMSBURY RESIDENTS' ACTION GROUP

PROOF OF EVIDENCE 9

Problems caused for people with impaired mobility

STATEMENT

By DIANA SCARROTT

Tavistock Place resident, with disabled neighbour

- a) Whatever the strict legal position about east-bound vehicles entering the west-bound cycle track to pick up or drop off on the south side of Tavistock Place, taxi drivers generally will not do this because of the response from cyclists. Ambulances will park in the cycle track and they are tolerated. But generally, picking up and dropping off is now impossible on the south side.
- b) One of the residents of Tamar House is 91 and has frequent hospital out-patient appointments. He has to walk to the corner of Woburn Place to pick up a taxi to the hospital. His balance is too poor to let him do the walk on his own so his independence is reduced. When he could pick up a taxi on the doorstep he could manage the journey to UCLH without help.
- c) When he returns from a hospital appointment he is dropped off in Herbrand Street and has to walk back to his front door. This is a shorter distance than to Woburn Place but still difficult, given his mobility problems.
- d) People arriving in wheelchairs have to be dropped off in the same way and need to be accompanied. In the past, they could be dropped outside Tamar House by a car or taxi travelling west so that the ramp unloaded onto the pavement. They could make the journey independently, with help from a taxi driver. They cannot now do that.

Pick-ups and drop-offs on Tavistock Place – north side

- e) The difficulty is worse on the north side because cars and other vehicles cannot get to the kerb at all, in an emergency. This photo shows an ambulance blocking cars on May 24, while attending to someone on the north side of the road. Cars can be seen trying to use the cycle track on the south side to get round the obstruction. Dropping off on the north side was a problem before the trial, of course, but at least traffic was not completely blocked when a vehicle parked to deliver or pick-up.



- f) Another drop-off difficulty on the north side can be seen at the Camden Chinese Community Centre, used largely by old people. If they arrive by minibus or other transport they have to reach the centre by crossing the cycle track. This is also not a problem linked to the trial but the blockage while dropping off takes place is new. Whatever decisions are taken about Tavistock Place traffic it should be possible to drop off old people beside the kerb, on both sides of the road.