West Ham Park area

Low Traffic Neighbourhood

Answers to key questions we have received so far

February 2025

On 25 November 2024 Newham Council started an experimental low traffic neighbourhood in the West Ham Park area. During the experimental scheme, we are collecting traffic data and engaging with residents through events and surveys to understand how the scheme affects walking, cycling and vehicle journeys; and to ultimately inform a decision as to whether to keep or remove the scheme. In this leaflet you will find:

* answers to the most common questions we have received so far
* public engagement update
* how to provide your feedback

**Answers to key questions we have received so far**

**Why is there a low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) in the West Ham Park area?**

LTNs aim to improve street environments and local neighbourhoods by reducing traffic and associated road danger, noise and air pollution, and making it easier and safer for people to walk and cycle for local journeys.

In 2021 we received a petition to ‘restrict rat running’ in the West Ham Park area, so we looked into the traffic data and found that half of the traffic in the area was not local, but rather, traffic using the neighbourhood as a shortcut. We looked into road safety statistics and found that there was on average, a casualty every 15 days over a four-year period. This is completely unacceptable. After reviewing options to make streets safer we are implementing a low traffic neighbourhood on an experimental basis.

LTNs have been around in London for decades but have become more common across the country in recent years. They are part of the Mayor of London’s plan to make the city cleaner, healthier, and greener. Similar schemes have also been implemented in other cities, including Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Oxford, and Sheffield.

**What is an ‘experimental’ LTN scheme?**

The West Ham Park LTN is being run as an experiment to test how it is working using traffic and air quality data monitoring, and to gather feedback from local people to review the design and potentially make adjustments.

Following extensive initial engagement with residents, the consultation period of the experimental scheme started on 25 November 2024 and will last between 6 and 12 months. During this period we will continue to inform you about the scheme (see page 6), and we encourage you to provide feedback (see page 12). At the end of the experimental period the council will use all of the evidence gathered to decide if we remove or keep the LTN.

**How do low traffic neighbourhoods work?**

LTNs use ‘modal filters’ at certain points to prevent motor vehicles from using local streets as a cut-through. A modal filter is a location inside the LTN where non-exempt vehicles cannot drive through. They display signage that there is no motor vehicle access. At the modal filter there is an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) camera to capture number plates of any vehicles driving though the modal filter and issue fines to non-exempt vehicles.

**How do I avoid fines whilst still accessing my property by car?**

All properties remain accessible by car. You may have to take a slightly different route between the main roads which surround the LTN and your home. Take a look at the LTN map on pages 10 and 11 and identify your route that avoids modal filters. If you need help with this, feel free to contact us (see page 12).

**Who is allowed to pass through modal filters?**

Pedestrians, cyclists, and wheelchair users can freely pass through modal filters. Certain motor vehicles including emergency vehicles, waste collection vehicles, and vehicles of exempted blue badge holders are allowed to drive through modal filters without receiving a fine.

**How do blue badge holders apply for an exemption?**

Blue badge holders who live in the West Ham Park LTN area can apply to exempt either their own vehicle, or the vehicle of a person who supports them and has their vehicle registered in Newham. Once approved, the nominated vehicle can drive through all modal filters within the West Ham Park LTN (which will display WHP01 signage). To apply for this, scan the QR code below:

**Why does the council issue fines for all other motor vehicles driving through modal filters?**

The use of enforcement cameras and issuing fines is to prevent motor vehicles from driving through modal filters whilst allowing exempted motor vehicles to drive through. The main alternative to camera enforcement would be moveable gates or bollards, but consultation with police, fire and ambulance services shows this is not their preferred option and barriers would slow down their vehicles when every second counts in an emergency.

To avoid getting a fine whilst driving, please take note of signage on modal filters and refer to the map and identify your route that avoids modal filters.

**How will the LTN affect traffic on boundary roads?**

Boundary roads are the main roads that surround an LTN. We recognise that the West Ham Park LTN scheme represents a significant change to traffic management in the area for many people. We anticipate that any disruption is likely to be short-term. In Newham’s other LTNs, four of the five LTNs experienced a reduction in boundary road traffic by the end of the experimental scheme. There is also research from University of Westminster which monitored the 46 most recent LTN schemes in London and found that there was little change in boundary road traffic.

It is important to note that we are not using these data to make assumptions about changes to traffic resulting from the West Ham Park LTN, but rather to demonstrate that it is reasonable to run an experimental scheme and to monitor traffic data closely.

Engagement carried out so far

Since March 2023 the council has conducted extensive engagement with residents, businesses, community groups, and stakeholders to in relation to through traffic, air pollution, and congestion in the West Ham Park area including:

* 6,608 residential and business addresses receiving a postcard and five leaflets
* 2,343 addresses visited in-person
* 1,182 survey responses
* 200 businesses engaged in-person
* 87 people engaged at pop-up events
* 71 people engaged with on-street surveys
* 77 sets of feedback received from lamp post QR codes
* 90 people attending 13 workshops over six days
* 18 events in total including meetings, pop-ups, and workshops

Timeline of events

Winter 2023

* Early stakeholder engagement

Spring 2023

* Postcard with perception survey delivered to local residents
* Door-to-door engagement

Summer 2023

* Public workshop sessions
* Leaflet 1 with perception survey results delivered to local residents

Autumn 2023

* Door-to-door engagement with residents on Wyatt Road
* October 2023 – Pop-up events at Stratford Academy

Winter 2024

* Pop-up events and workshops
* Leaflet 2 with scheme design delivered to local residents

Spring 2024

* Experimental LTN approved by Newham Council
* Leaflet 3 with scheme decision delivered to local residents

Summer 2024

* In-person engagement at West Ham Park 150th anniversary event

Autumn 2024

* Leaflet 4 announcing experimental scheme start delivered to local residents
* Door knocking with residents
* On-street information signage installed
* Online survey and map-based comments online platform launched
* Experimental LTN scheme start – modal filters installed
* Consultation period start
* First session with Blue Badge holder steering group

Winter 2025

* Leaflet 5 delivered to local residents
* Key stakeholder consultation start (e.g. TfL, police, accessibility groups, etc.)
* On-street surveys in West Ham Park and surrounding area

Spring 2025

* Leaflet 6 with preliminary traffic data
* Door knocking
* Resident engagement event
* 6 months since consultation period start, earliest possible end to consultation period

Summer 2025

* Leaflet 7 with analysis of consultation data
* On-street surveys in West Ham Park and surrounding area

Autumn 2025

* Leaflet 8 project update

Winter 2026

Spring 2026

* 18 months since experimental scheme start, latest possible date for decision to remove or keep LTN

Decision on whether to make the scheme permanent

At the end of the experimental period, the council will evaluate all feedback and data gathered in order to make a decision as to whether to a) make the scheme permanent or b) remove the scheme.

The decision on the scheme will be based on:

1. Feedback from residents and other local stakeholders

2. Data gathered including traffic volumes and air quality

Once a decision is made, we will make sure to communicate this and the next steps with all residents in the low traffic neighbourhood area.

If a decision is made to make the scheme permanent, we will consider measures that are complementary to a low traffic neighbourhood. This could include, for example:

* Additional pedestrian street crossings
* Planting and greenery
* Improvements to footways
* Design proposals for permanent modal filters

Events and services to support sustainable travel

Shifting to healthier, safer, and more sustainable travel isn’t just about reducing motor vehicle journeys, which is why a range of free events are programmed to help improve access to equipment, skills and services.

**Try before you bike**

Try a bike for on a short to medium term for a low fee with an option to buy.

newham.gov.uk/transport-streets/safer-healthier-streets/4

**Second-hand bike markets**

Buy a refurbished bicycle (all sizes) or donate unwanted bicycles.

Tuesday 18 February 2025 10am-4pm Verona Road, London, E7 9PR

Check for upcoming markets.

peddlemywheels.com/public-markets

**Dr Bike**

Have your bike checked for free by experienced mechanics.

West Ham Park entrance, Ham Park Road E7 9LE

11am-3pm

Saturday 22 February 2025

Saturday 15 March 2025

Saturday 5 April 2025

(and every second Saturday until 1 Nov)

**Cycle training**

Learn to ride a bike or just improve your skills on the road. We follow the three levels of the national standard, known as Bikeability.

newham.gov.uk/transport-streets/safer-healthier-streets/3

**Bike marking**

Reduce your risk of theft by warning thieves that you use BikeRegister.

Register your bike for free with the National Cycle Database at second-hand bike markets and Dr Bike sessions.

liveableneighbourhoods@newham.gov.uk

**Business deals on e-bikes and cargo bikes**

Grants and discounts to help businesses to use bikes, e-bikes and cargo bikes as part of their operations.

zeroemissionsnetwork.com

[map of Low Traffic Neighbourhood – experimental design stage (February 2025)]

Let’s keep in touch

Contact us

If you have any further questions, phone or email us at:

020 8430 2000

liveableneighbourhoods@newham.gov.uk

**Further information**

For more information, please visit our website using the URL or scan our QR code below.

newham.gov.uk/ltn

**Accessible formats**

Accessible formats are available on Newham Low Traffic Neighbourhood website, and include:

* PDF
* Plain Text (Word)
* Easy Read (simplified text)
* Audio recording
* British Sign Language summary

**Other languages**

For a translation of this document, visit: shorturl.at/bHKT1

Or scan the QR code below and enter code 2077165

Or call 020 3373 4000