

Dear Councillors Maroof, Garbutt and Teal

As you are probably aware there is an increasing ground-swell of enthusiasm for the creation of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) in Nether Edge. Specifically there are concerns over safety, the environment and pollution from rush hour flows of through traffic on Brincliffe Edge and Nether Edge Roads, both of which are too narrow to accommodate two-way traffic. At the same time there is a nation-wide initiative to encourage active lifestyles and reduce car-dependence. This issue was raised in the February EDGE (p11) and has generated wide and positive public comment (see p 8 & 9 March EDGE) and now a dedicated WhatsApp group shared by local residents.

It is acknowledged that the management of through traffic in residential neighbourhoods is a complex problem which requires skilled modelling over a wide area to avoid simple displacement to other residential streets. A variety of 'modal filters' may need to be considered, preceded by extensive consultation. But LTNs have been successfully adopted in many London boroughs, and could be equally effective in Nether Edge. The Council launched an Active Neighbourhoods consultation that included Nether Edge at the end of last year, but disappointingly, that consultation appears to have ground to a halt. Nether Edge Village centre is due to receive a business improvement grant in the near future, which will include a range of minor environmental improvements. It would be so much better if that initiative could be followed through in a year or two by addressing the traffic congestion on Nether Edge Road, which runs through the heart of the village

It is appreciated that the council has many competing calls on funds during these difficult times, but could a start please be made now on preparatory planning for an LTN?

Best wishes, Howard