

Can we/Should we try to do something about Local Traffic ?

Howard Fry's article in the February edition of EDGE generated quite a lot of comment:

Peter Vaughan

1. Howard Fry asks whether NENG should participate with SCC on the possible introduction of an Active / Low Traffic Neighbourhood in the Brincliffe area. There can be no doubt that the levels of car ownership and levels of traffic in Nether Edge are blighting the area, for which those of us who are motorists are responsible. The problems this cause are well known. Whilst I don't think that an Active / Low Traffic scheme would address the fundamental problems, I think if done well it could ease some of the symptoms. What we wouldn't want is to find that we had simply moved the problem from one street to another and introduced a lot of simplistic calming measures, such as speed bumps. I therefore fully support NENG engaging with SCC to ensure that any scheme is as good as we can get. I think that there are other related initiatives that NENG could usefully take up on our behalf, such as :
 - exploring whether there would be interest in a local car club, lift sharing etc
 - encouraging "walking school buses"
 - putting pressure on SCC to improve the deplorable state of many of our footpaths
 - exploring whether Nether Edge Road between Oxfam and Glen Road could be largely pedestrianised to create a village square

There are also things that we motorists can do straightaway for ourselves, such as combining car trips and shopping locally, on foot of course !

David and Rose Woodhill

Thank you to Howard Fry for raising this issue. We should definitely try to do something about the traffic. The traffic on Brincliffe Edge Rd has increased in the last few years. It has become more of a problem lately as shops and offices at Bannercross are using Brincliffe Edge Rd and Bannerdale Rd as a car park. The junction of Brincliffe Edge Rd and Bannerdale Rd is particularly dangerous because of the poor visibility due to the parking.

We need to develop a comprehensive traffic calming scheme for the whole of Nether Edge and not just for a few roads. We should like to see a 20 mile per hour speed limit for the whole of Nether Edge. This has been implemented in Bents Green.

Another reader wrote in with the suggestion that Archer Lane should be made one-way : "down-hill in the morning and up-hill in the evening. The majority of the traffic problem is commuters avoiding Abbeydale Rd. A camera and fines would soon sort them out."!

Marion Gerson

I completely agree with Howard Fry that roads and pavements should be made as pollution-free and as safe as possible, especially for the more vulnerable. Can we make a start with Sheldon Road, as it would have a knock-on effect on many of the others. Because of its position as a funnel, it carries more traffic than any others in Nether Edge, apart from Abbeydale Road. In addition, quite a high proportion is diesel-powered, including taxis, vans, trucks and lorries. This is a residential road with large numbers of people living in the houses that crowd close to the traffic and pollution, and with narrow pavements that are in a dangerous and discriminatory state.

This is likely to get worse when the clean air zone is introduced for the centre of Sheffield, as even more drivers will try to avoid the inner ring road. Already we've seen an increase in traffic when traffic-calming measures were installed on the Bannerdale roads, and this may have led to more traffic on the Brincliffe Edge/Nether Edge Road cut-through too.

Last month I nearly had an accident that I have been expecting - and dreading - all the time I have lived in my flat on Sheldon Road; when there are vans and cars parked on either side

of our entrance there is often no way I can see vehicles approaching in either direction, so have to inch out blind until the nose of my car is across both lanes of traffic before I can see. A car coming down the road had slowed and was clearly intending to stop to let me out, but meanwhile a van came shooting round the downhill corner and sped past, mounting the pavement to do so. Fortunately for us both, there are no tree trunks directly opposite but it was a very close shave. And it's going to happen again to someone, if not to me.

A 20mph speed limit, with camera enforcement, would help some of these issues without affecting the emergency response vehicles that use our road and I believe this should become standard throughout Nether Edge. And decent pavements would make it possible for wheelchairs to get along and for people to walk in safety too.

S..

I just received my latest copy of the Nether Edge newsletter and was delighted to read the piece about the Brincliffe Edge Road traffic proposals, (on page 11).

We live on Brincliffe Edge Road, between Nether Edge Road and Archer Lane, and we can confirm that we witness traffic problems on a daily occurrence, which has escalated since the opening of the Mercia School. Our day is usually interrupted with sounds of horns, and drivers shouting at each other. Thankfully it only happens for about 2hrs in a week day, but it can vary during the weekends.

The amount of traffic has affected how we live, as we no longer park outside our house. The decision to move our car happened 3 years ago when someone hit and run into our new car, and due to the extensive damage, it was almost a write-off.

I have contacted the council numerous of times but to no avail. They are either not interested, (due to a lack of funding), or in the case of the council, they do not believe the traffic is that bad. I have contacted Paul Bromfield but he told me that there isn't any funding available, and I also contacted Alison Teal and she contacted the council on my behalf.

Speaking with our neighbours, they all agree that something needs to be done to address the high amount of traffic that use our road as a cut-through. Historically the stretch of road where we live, was a one-way road, (in the downward direction), but I do not know when it was changed, (or why).

We think there are a number of ways to address the traffic in our neighbourhood, and have noticed only this week what a reduction in traffic there has been due to the temporary traffic lights on Archer Lane. Our suggestions are as follows:

- Single lane traffic on Brincliffe Edge Rd between Nether Edge Rd and Archer Lane, with parking on the housing side for residents. At the same time, make Ashland Road one-way, so that the problem wasn't just moved on.
- Make Archer Lane a single lane road, (between Edgedale Rd and Sandford Grove Rd).
- Traffic lights on part of Archer Lane
- Introduction of a partial closure of Nether Edge Rd, between Cafe #9 and the Oxfam. This was presented as a sketch in a previous copy of the NENG newsletter and could help alleviate numerous issues in the Nether Edge Neighbourhood.
- Introduction of 'Stops signs' to the top of Nether Edge Rd and Archer Lane
- 'Give Way / Priority direction' signs to Brincliffe Edge Rd
- Introduce a safe crossing point between the entrance of Brincliffe Edge Woods to Nether Edge Rd. This is a very busy route used for school children, and visibility is limited and dangerous especially during peak times of travel, and more recently, during Sheffield's Circular Run.
- Generally, there is a need for additional 20mph signs posts and road graphics.

Any other suggestions would be welcome.