

# LAMBETH LTN WATCH NEWSLETTER



Tuesday 19th December 2023



## Protest Dates.

- Wednesday 24th January 2024  
Lambeth Town Hall (Brixton)  
6:30pm – 8pm

## Welcome to our community newsletter.

Hey Lambethians! 🎉 Can you believe it's been just two months since Lambeth LTN Watch kicked off in October 2023? As the festive season unfolds, we celebrate the progress made by Lambeth LTN Watch since our inception in October 2023. In a brief two months we have undertaken the following:

**Community Engagement:** Our social media presence has grown substantially fostering a community dedicated to addressing LTN & road traffic challenges.

**Strategic Focus:** Subgroups tackle key issues such as Air Quality, LTN Barrier Monitoring and Disability concerns, ensuring a comprehensive approach.

**Local Impact:** Thousands of homes received informative leaflets, and testimonials from residents and businesses amplify authentic voices.

**Visible Presence:** Protests in November and December garnered attention from national broadcasters, with plans for five more dates in 2024.

**Driver Education:** Initiatives have educated thousands, preventing fines and fostering a broader understanding of LTN complexities.

**Media Recognition:** Multiple articles and TV coverage from outlets like ITV News underscore our presence in the discourse.



As we embrace the festive spirit, Lambeth LTN Watch remains committed to a more responsive and inclusive local environment. Your continued support propels our journey forward.

 [Lambethltnwatch](https://www.facebook.com/Lambethltnwatch)  [Lambethltnwatch](https://www.youtube.com/Lambethltnwatch)

 [@Lambethltnwatch](https://twitter.com/Lambethltnwatch)

 [admin@lambethltnwatch.org](mailto:admin@lambethltnwatch.org)

 [www.lambethltnwatch.org](http://www.lambethltnwatch.org)

Roads for all, Together we stand!  
DON'T DIVIDE US!



Photo credit: Julian Simmonds

## Lambeth LTN watch barrier monitoring

Educating drivers is something the council and LTN supporting groups should be doing too as they may learn a thing or two about why so many drivers are being caught up in this mess!


The team of volunteers warn motorists of ‘confusing’ signs so Lambeth council ‘cannot exploit them’

Every rush hour the volunteers don their hi-viz jackets and take up their positions along the Streatham Wells LTN barriers.

Their goal is simple: stop the council making hundreds of thousands of pounds in fines and using a map adapted by the team, to explain to drivers which roads they can use to reach their destination and warn them of the fine they will receive entering an LTN filter.

Well done to Jim who is out come rain or shine putting in long shifts and organising everyone. Also a big thank you to everyone who has got involved at the filters.

If you have any time to spare please get in touch.



**LTN Watch Barrier Monitoring**  
 WhatsApp Group Invite  
[chat.whatsapp.com](https://chat.whatsapp.com)

# Donations

- We kindly ask for your financial support, as donations play a crucial role in covering expenses relating to materials and events. Every contribution no matter how big or small makes a meaningful difference.



Please click the link to donate



## Streatham Wells LTN complaint contacts.

Here are some names and numbers of who is responsible for these LTN's, let them know what you think of this and what you would like to see them do about it.

Lambeth Council LTN email address:  
[lowtrafficneighbourhoods@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:lowtrafficneighbourhoods@lambeth.gov.uk)

Rezina Chowdhury  
[rchowdhury@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:rchowdhury@lambeth.gov.uk)  
 Tel: 07920 560168

Clare holland  
[cholland@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:cholland@lambeth.gov.uk)

Local MP:  
 Streatham: Bell Ribeiro-Addy:  
[bell.ribeiroaddy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:bell.ribeiroaddy.mp@parliament.uk)

Formal Complaint:  
<https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/about-council/contact-us/make-complaint>

# Lambeth LTN Air Quality!

PlaceName	MeasurementTime	Amount
Leigham Ct Rd	2023-12-06 07:00:00	92.6
Leigham Ct Rd	2023-12-06 08:00:00	114.05
Leigham Ct Rd	2023-12-06 09:00:00	109
Leigham Ct Rd	2023-12-06 10:00:00	101.47
Leigham Ct Rd	2023-12-06 11:00:00	84.65
Leigham Ct Rd	2023-12-06 12:00:00	84.87
Leigham Ct Rd	2023-12-06 13:00:00	78.69
Leigham Ct Rd	2023-12-06 14:00:00	76.81
Leigham Ct Rd	2023-12-06 15:00:00	121.49
Leigham Ct Rd	2023-12-06 16:00:00	141.33
Leigham Ct Rd	2023-12-06 17:00:00	112.26

The air quality (AQ) team are accessing data directly from Airly, so that they can assess patterns of emissions such as nitrogen dioxide across the area. The monitoring nodes the team are looking at are sponsored by Lambeth. Most nodes are unfortunately set back from the main roads experiencing significant congestion, which is where emissions are likely to be highest. However, the team are able to look at estimates from existing nodes. The AQ team is hoping to be able to access historical data from the same nodes, to compare current emissions readings (which are very high in terms of nitrogen dioxide) with those taken pre-LTN. This picture is an example, showing nitrogen dioxide readings throughout the day on 6th December 2023 at the node on Leigham Court Road, directly outside Dunraven School. All readings in the “amount” column (measured in micrograms per cubic metre of air) that are over 25 are above the World Health Organisation recommended safe level.

# Leaflet update

We have Leafleting about 70% of the Streatham Wells LTN and 50 to 60 people have connected with the group and joined as a result.



## LTN media coverage

- ITV news came to SW16 to film a Streatham Wells LTN story on Monday December 18th. It gives a short window into many of the absolutely disastrous impacts the LTN is having on groups within our community, and for example how it is proving negative for children with SEN & for cyclists.

## Volunteers needed

- We need over 5,000 Lambethians to join this campaign if you can help please contact a group Admin

## LTN petitions

- This petition was created by a local doctor concerned with the affects on air pollution of the Streatham Wells LTN on vulnerable people such as children and the elderly - please sign and share this so we can get as many signatures as possible

<https://bit.ly/StreathamWellsLTNAirPollutionPetition>

# An exclusive into the eyes of the Disability residents.

In 2017, Lambeth published its Transport Strategy Implementation Plan, which envisioned as its top objective that, 'London's streets will be healthy and more Londoners will actively travel'. One of the supposed tools to achieve this included, amongst other things, the introduction of some Low Traffic Neighbourhoods ('LTNs'). The idea behind these LTNs are that certain 'local streets' suffer from high levels of vehicular traffic and that problems caused by 'rat running' lead to poor air quality and an increased risk of collisions making trips by cycle or on foot unsafe and unpleasant.

LTNs are supposed to help address these issues and the contemporary tranche of LTNs began to be introduced in 2020. It is an irrefutable fact that over the last three years, some have benefitted from LTNs, but this has come at the expense of certain groups of people, not least to those who have a disability or multiple disabilities. This often includes those with Special Educational Needs ('SEN').

A disabled person is defined by the Equality Act 2010 as a person who has a physical or mental impairment, that has a substantial (not trivial) and long-term (generally expected to last 12+ months) adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. Behind this definition exist actual people, who often struggle to get their voices heard.

We recently met with Yvette who lives with her husband Robert and their two secondary school aged sons Jacob and his younger brother Alfred. In order to protect their anonymity, we have not used their real names, but the family's story is very real. Both boys have various conditions including Autistic Spectrum Disorder ('ASD') and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder ('ADHD'). They also suffer from crippling anxiety which is a very common occurrence with these conditions.

The boys diagnosed conditions fall under the umbrella term of neurodiversity which means their brains process information differently, compared to the majority of the population. Whilst some aspects of being neurodiverse can be advantageous, it can and it has in both the boys cases lead to a whole host of disabling symptoms, which impact on the family's daily lives. As a full time carer for her sons, Yvette is no longer able to work and has virtually no time for herself. Both boys attend different special needs schools and are blue badge holders. They are both on limited school hours, due to how their disabilities affect them.

The family moved to Streatham from the Clapham/Balham borders around 10 years ago. Prior to the move, they hadn't felt the need to own a car as transport links were fairly good.

However, as their family expanded, they started experiencing difficulties catching the bus as pushchair spaces were often taken by the time the bus had reached their stop.

After the move, the family found themselves needing to use a car initially because of the poorer transport links. However, as the boys got older, they found they needed to travel by vehicle most of the time to keep them both safe. Whilst we are all capable of experiencing sensory overstimulation, this can be extreme in those with neurodiverse conditions. Yvette gives an example of the time where one of the brothers became so overwhelmed, they ran directly into the middle of a busy road and was surrounded by traffic. The risk of this type of event happening is unpredictable. Robert cycles to work as he had done previously before the move.

Please continue below



# An exclusive into the eyes of the Disability residents.

Jacob attends a Lambeth Special Educational Needs ('SEN') school in the north of the borough, just over 5 miles away from home. Aside from their additional needs, those with SEN, tend to be even more disadvantaged, as they often have to travel a considerable distance to be able to attend a suitable school. Jacob is currently one of ten children travelling on his Special Educational Needs and Disability ('SEND') bus, financed by Lambeth Council. Jacob finds his journeys on the bus overwhelming and distressing, because he cannot cope with or filter out noise. Prior to the introduction of the Streatham Wells LTN, his journey was around one hour which, time wise, was already on the upper limit of his tolerance threshold.

Since the inception of the Streatham Wells LTN, Jacob's average journey time has increased from 70 to 80 minutes, but can at times be longer. Yvette gives a heartbreaking account of a particular day where the journey took 90 minutes and Jacob ended up self harming, by trying to strangle himself with an elastic exercise band when he got to school. Whilst this sort of incident may seem like an extreme reaction to a prolonged journey, one needs understand that this is enough to exacerbate Jacob's existing level of anxiety to the extent that the just about bearable, now becomes impossible.

Pre LTN Jacob had already been on a part time timetable. However, the increased journey times has and continues to disrupt his education even more. One day recently, his journey to school was aborted as it took 50 minutes to move 0.4 miles from his home. His father had to collect him from the bus, as he became too distressed to continue the journey. This is all happening at an important time when he is preparing for his GCSEs.

Alfred, goes to a different SEN school just under 3 miles away from his home. He struggles even more with travel than his older brother and because of this is unable to travel on a SEND bus. Instead, he is taken to school in a taxi, also funded by Lambeth. The taxi driver has been given a part time dispensation for the two bus gates on Valley Road, which on an average day, saves around 15 minutes on his post LTN journey.

However, the exemption is only granted for the same hours as the local Schools Street. This means that if Alfred is travelling outside these hours, as often happens due to him being on limited school hours, then his taxi driver cannot take advantage of the exemption to transport Alfred home. Recently Alfred found himself unable to take advantage of the exemption, when his regular taxi had broken down and was sent an alternative. The lack of flexibility in the system is frustrating to Yvette.

The family live just outside the Streatham Wells LTN. Despite the bus and taxi exemptions, parts of Jacob and Alfred's journey involve them being stuck in gridlocked traffic on the boundary roads. On occasion, Alfred has missed school as he has been in floods of tears in the morning because he says he just can't face another prolonged journey into school.

It is obvious that for any child, a journey of up to 50% increase in time would impact on their school day. But with both boys being only able to attend school for an average of 2 ½ hours a day, we can see how it is even more vital to ensure that what is already a complicated journey isn't made any worse. Their difficulties do not end when they finally manage to get home. As a result of their journeys, they both end up suffering with exceptionally high levels of stress, which they find hard to unwind from. If we can all see that this is unfair and unacceptable, then why can't Lambeth Council?

Thank you

# Blue badge petitions



The Government must make it MANDATORY to include in the DVLA Vehicle Registration Database, along with name & address of vehicle owner, an exemption marker for those with Blue Badges or life-threatening conditions, from Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and time restrictions without a clear justification.

Please sign the below petition to help those suffering with disabilities.



**Petition: Exempt Blue Badge drivers from Low...**  
The Government must make it...  
[petition.parliament.uk](https://petition.parliament.uk)

# Protest information

The next protest is scheduled for January 24, 2024. To learn more about the event and how to get involved, please reach out to us via email at

[admin@lambethltnwatch.org](mailto:admin@lambethltnwatch.org). Keep an eye out for the Eventbrite link, which will be provided once it goes live.



# Our words to you...

- This is a Marathon, Not a Sprint: This campaign will be a long one. It'll require patience and persistence, but together, we can create a better Lambeth for everyone.

So far we have collected over 500 testimonies, please do not hesitate to send them in.

Thank you for your incredible dedication and support.

On behalf of the community and us Merry christmas and a Happy new year!

