

17 Oct 2018, 10:52

to Will Norman, Heidi Alexander, Damien Egan, Councillor Mark Inlgeby, Josh Learner

Dear Will Norman

We would like you to carry out an urgent review of the Lewisham Gateway junction to assess its safety, and include it on the Safer Junctions programme. This is with reference to the Mayor's Vision Zero Action Programme (July 2018). Section 4.1 states...

"As we move forward, we will take a risk-based approach to identifying new junctions to add to the programme.

Locations on the Safer Junctions list will be monitored and reviewed each year, with additions to the programme being made if necessary, so that it always focuses on the highest risk junctions.

London boroughs are also encouraged to follow the same approach to tackling high-risk locations on their road networks through the use of Local Implementation Plan funding. We will provide analytical and technical design support for delivery of these schemes."

We would very much like to support this review and have many alternative suggestions for improved designs based on the experiences of our members.

The recent Lewisham Commonplace consultation evidences 277 comments/agreements about the lack of safe space for cyclists, and there are many other comments about the hostile environment for pedestrians. Typical comments include:

"The new roads here are disappointing for cyclists. There is so much space for proper, cycle superhighway-style segregated cycle paths here and they are very much needed."

"Cycling infrastructure at the Lewisham gyratory (sic) is non-existent. When redesigning the new road layout and planning improvements, cyclists have not been taken into account; there are no cycle boxes at the lights on Rennell Street or cycle lanes on the entire road plan. Access to the shopping centre is not obvious ... the pedestrian has clearly been considered as an afterthought. High pollution levels are obvious here. Lewisham High Street ...has great potential to be a brilliant, clean, safe central hub for the community – ...but this is totally brought down by the presence of dominating vehicles and lack of pedestrian infrastructure which I think inhibits people spending their time and money there."

The Gateway scheme has been unfortunately singled out for criticism in Building Design. Short listed for the Carbuncle Cup including the redesign of one of London's "most notoriously inhospitable" traffic gyratory system, replacing it with a scheme that is worse" said the editor. For cyclists, it is "absolutely terrifying" and "if you are in a car you haven't got a clue where you are going. All around it are new towers. It could have been so much better...It seems to me that ... they haven't really regenerated anything at all."

We would support a review with practical and constructive ideas and designs. These will include properly designed off-carriageway routes (there is no east-west link which was always promised) as well as segregated road space for people on bicycles avoiding left hooks, and improving the pedestrian experience.

During previous correspondence with TfL we were promised a safety audit in March 2017, but to our knowledge if this has been carried out the findings have not been released.

Lewisham, and its people, deserve so much better.

Yours sincerely

Jane Davis

Co-ordinator, Lewisham Cyclists