



Contact: [lewishamcyclists@gmail.com](mailto:lewishamcyclists@gmail.com) Website: [www.lewishamcyclists.co.uk](http://www.lewishamcyclists.co.uk)

## Lewisham Cyclists response to Consultation for Royal Parks Movement Strategy Trial in Greenwich Park

Trial running from 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 to February 2021

Consultation running from November 2020 to 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021

<https://www.royalparks.org.uk/managing-the-parks/park-strategies/the-royal-parks-transport-and-movement-strategy/greenwich-park2>

### **About Lewisham Cyclists**

Lewisham Cyclists (LC) are the local borough group of the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) with more than 1500 supporters of whom over 700 are fully paid-up members of LCC. We speak up on behalf of everyone who cycles or wants to cycle in the London Borough of Lewisham and adjacent boroughs. We seek a greener, healthier, happier and better-connected capital.

### Our response

As stated in our previous response in March 2020 Lewisham Cyclists are broadly supportive of the aims of the Royal Parks movement strategy. However we do feel the strategy could, at times, be more positive in enabling more cycling to, and within the Royal Parks.

We were delighted to see that the Royal Park acted so swiftly on its Movement Strategy in instigating a trial removal of through traffic in Greenwich Park.

Lewisham Cyclists members utilise the park in many ways including walking, relaxing, meeting others, attending events, or traveling through on a bike.

We find the atmosphere in the park far more relaxed with the removal of through traffic, although there are still a significant numbers of motor vehicles entering the park as a destination.

**As per one of the key elements of the Vision in your Movement Strategy – ‘Our park roads are not intended to be primarily commuter through routes for motor vehicles’ we believe through motor traffic, which brings pollution, noise and vehicle danger, should never again be allowed in the park.**

The population increase in SE London, particularly in northern Lewisham, will lead to increased use of the park and although we are already seeing that active travel is becoming more significant, visiting the park is still a generator of a lot of vehicle journeys. More safe cycle routes are already being installed locally near the park and this will increase the percentage of visitors using this mode.

Transforming the park to reduce motor vehicle storage and add cycle parking will soon become necessary, this could potentially be funded by an increase in car parking charges. It would be useful to have cycle accessible, and where possible ‘secure’, cycle parking near to

each entrance for those arriving by this mode. The park is also used by riders with larger cargo type bikes (that cargo often being children) which require suitable parking space.

Extra temporary cycle parking for all significant events in the park, to incentivise sustainable travel and minimise the number of car journeys across the surrounding area would also be a great idea.

#### Comments relevant to the immediately surrounding areas

The Blackheath Gate entrance continues to be a danger area, especially for cyclists, and we are keen for you to encourage the Council to improve this entrance as soon as possible as per the previously consulted plans. In addition to the planned changes we would encourage the Council to remove all vehicular traffic on the western section of Charlton Way, apart from buses and cycles. This would improve safety here enormously.

We would also ask that you make representations to the Council that they should, as a priority, enable contra-flow cycling in King William Walk as this is a key access route for people on bicycles and with the reduced vehicular traffic on that street there should be no impediment to doing this.

**Tim Collingridge (LC Secretary) 6/1/2021**