



Contact: lewishamcyclists@gmail.com



Website: www.lewishamcyclists.org.uk

About Lewisham Cyclists

Lewisham Cyclists (LC) are the local borough group of the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) with more than 3000 supporters of whom over 650 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 its adjacent local parks; and we speak up for a greener, healthier, happier and better-connected capital.

LC response to London Borough of Lewisham's (LBL) Cold Blow Lane walking and cycling project Survey. January 2025.

<https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/strategic-housing-and-regulatory-services/cold-blow-lane-survey/>

Lewisham Cyclists are very supportive of the current closure of the tunnels at Cold Blow Lane to motorised traffic and wish to see it made permanent.

Additional comments:

There are a very limited number of safely cyclable east-west routes in this area due to the dislocation caused by the railway lines running from London Bridge south towards East Croydon. This closure will enable more people on cycles to safely move between New Cross and Deptford avoiding main roads.

We are also aware that the tunnel is used daily by children and families as there are several schools in the proximity including Hatcham Temple Grove, Childeric, Kender and Deptford Green. When the tunnel was open to traffic it was very difficult and unsafe to navigate for children and families, not to mention the pollution exposure risks from the traffic pollution within the tunnel.

The tunnel and pavements are very narrow and not fit for purpose, which used to force pedestrians to often walk in the road leaving them very exposed to the traffic.

With the closure in place it is now easy for parents with prams and pushchairs to navigate the tunnel and both walking and cycling are now safe. Encouraging children and parents to walk or cycle to school is a key objective of Lewisham Council as it helps to improve health and well-being outcomes in what is a fairly deprived part of the borough.

The lighting is still quite poor in the tunnels and this could definitely be improved to encourage more local residents to walk and cycle this way particularly during the short days in the middle of winter.

Water often collects in the tunnels when there is heavy rain and some highway improvements could be made to resolve this issue.



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Assuming the closure is made permanent the environment in the tunnels and their approaches could be much improved with localised planting, murals on the walls and works to minimise the highway width throughout to that required for emergency vehicles and people on cycles.

At the Sanford Street end of Cold Blow Lane the closure would enable the installation of a prioritised crossing for walking and cycling e.g. Tiger or Toucan crossing. It is particularly hazardous to cross the road at this point which is on a key route for school-children.

Some basic highway improvements and signage leading from this proposed crossing could also provide a cyclable link to the existing north-south TfL Cycleway through the middle of the Woodpecker Estate.

To conclude we are strongly supportive of the closure of Cold Blow Lane to motorised traffic and would like it to be made permanent. This closure to be followed by a program of highway and public realm improvements to enable more people to utilise the tunnels as a healthy and safe leisure route through the area.

Tim Collingridge (LC Secretary) pp LC Committee (14/01/25)