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## Westminster low traffic neighbourhood scheme paused



Westminster's first Low Traffic Neighbourhood is on hold after some residents said they worried it could create another rat run.

Traffic experts will be looking at other ways to cut traffic in Connaught Village.

Plans included temporary barriers, including signs and planters put up to stop traffic using the estate as a short cut.

LTNs are funded by central government to try and cut traffic but have proved controversial as they've been set up in six-month trials in neighbourhoods across London.

Residents in Crystal Palace staged a protest and there was also a large amount of opposition in Hounslow, Wandsworth, Ealing and Harrow.

Andrew Smith, Westminster City Council's cabinet member for environment and highways said: "While there is a recognition that the volume of traffic passing through

the area is an issue, it is clear there is not a consensus in support of the proposed scheme.”

He said it was clear there was a problem with rat running through the estate and something had to be done “to manage the through traffic”.

The council said it would be working with residents and businesses to come up with a solution.

### **‘Climate emergency’**

Dr Allen Zimble, the chairman of the Hyde Park Estate Association, said: “We are delighted that they have heard our concerns about the proposed LTN – it would have contributed to significant traffic congestion and pollution on our peripheral arterial highways, making it increasingly impossible for anyone needing to or wanting to use taxis or private cars, or depending on delivery services.”

But he said there was still a “desperate need to address the excessive traffic and current levels of pollution.”

However the new Hyde Park Estate Residents group, HyPER, is “extremely disappointed” by the decision.

Resident Chris Gunness said: “The decision is at odds with the wishes of Hyde Park Estate residents, it disregards the government’s guidance to local authorities about green spaces in response to the Coronavirus pandemic and it flies in the face of Westminster Council’s declaration of a climate emergency.”

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