

Will the Judd Street/Hunter Street closures prejudice the outcome of the Public Inquiry?

SLIDE 1

Public Inquiry on the Tavistock Place/Torrington Place trial

- **Ran from 10 October 2017 for four weeks**
- **Council failed to display key document to the public**
- **Cost in excess of £300,000**
- **Recommendations are advisory**
- **BRAG presented over 100 pages of evidence and 9 witnesses**
- **No councillor attended at all**

SLIDE 2

The outcome of the Inquiry

- **The independent Inspector, Mr Martin Elliott, concluded the route should remain one-way but be reversed to west-bound.**
- **BRAG's had proposed to the Inquiry two separate cycle lanes with two-way traffic**
- **But BRAG took the view that the independent outcome should be respected**
- **The Inspector's recommendation would preserve the new cycle tracks but also recognise the needs of the wider community.**
- **One-way west-bound traffic will cause less displaced traffic and pollution on local streets and supply the much needed west-bound route (the only one between the Strand and Euston Road).**
- **BRAG has called on the council to respect the outcome of the Public Inquiry**

SLIDE 3

Key conclusions from the Inspector's report

1. **Traffic jams worse**
2. **Pollution not reduced across the area – and higher than expected on streets with displaced traffic**
3. **Cycling accidents increased**
4. **No reduction in traffic volumes**
5. **No increase in cycling numbers**
6. **No evidence of health benefits or modal shift to active travel**
7. **A 'fundamental paucity of evidence to support the efficacy of the trial'**

The council's traffic modelling and pollution monitoring were shown to be unreliable.

SLIDE 4

Impact of the new closures on the Inquiry decision

- **Decision on 5 September; concern that recommendations may be rejected**
- **Inquiry based on information about the roads as they were then - but which the council is now seeking to change before the Inquiry decision is made**
- **The new closures mean vehicles driving from Euston Road to Judd Street will now have to go via either:**
 - **Dukes Road/Burton Street (or Flaxman Terrace)/Cartwright Gardens, or**
 - **Upper Woburn Place, and then either Coram Street/Marchmont Street/Bernard Street or....via Tavistock Place (if it remains east-bound)**
- **The Judd Street closure creates for the council new justifications to reject the Inquiry outcome and keep the east-bound route – which is the council's preferred option but which was proved to have multiple disadvantages – re traffic jams, pollution and cycling safety**
- **So, if this happens, the Inquiry, which cost council tax payers £300,000+ (and was also a significant cost to objectors), will have been pointless.**