

Torrington Place Tavistock Place traffic system - consultation

Camden Council are consulting about the trial of a one way system with cycle tracks outside Tamar House. You may have received consultation documents this week. The distribution has not been efficient but that doesn't matter – you can still easily take part using an online survey:

<http://news.camden.gov.uk/have-your-say-in-the-torrington-place--tavistock-place-route-consultation/>

The consultation gives you a choice between making the trial permanent or reverting to the system operating until last November, with two way car traffic and a two way cycle track. Whether this is the right question is debatable because there are other options as well. But this is the choice we are offered, so how should residents reply?

You may think that one-way cars and the new cycle tracks make the street quieter and pleasanter. That's true. Data on the consultation website compares car and cycle use of Tavistock Place on two days, in May 2015 and May 2016, eastbound and westbound, for three one hour time slots, 8.15-9.15, 9.15-10.15 and 5.45-6.45. To simplify, this table totals cycle and car use. The cycle data is for all of Tavistock Place. The car data is for the section outside Tamar House, west of Herbrand Street. There has been an increase in cycle use but it is hardly dramatic. Car use has fallen massively:

	Before trial	During trial	% change
Cycles east	1428	1648	+15%
Cycles west	972	1161	+19%
All cycles	2400	2809	+17%
Cars east	757	738	-3%
Cars west	1032	-	-
All cars	1789	738	-59%

So it is understandable if residents in Tamar House like the trial. But traffic which is not going along this street is going somewhere else so our gain is someone else's congestion. And if this doesn't persuade you to ask whether Camden could be making a mistake here, consider this:

- The unloading bay in Herbrand Street is far too small and is often used for long periods by vehicles longer than the parking space, preventing short term use for residents' cars.
- It would take an ambulance collecting a resident from Tamar House much longer to reach the nearest hospital, UCH at the top of Tottenham Court Road, because it would have to go east, first and then north and west along Euston Road instead of going there directly, west to Tottenham Court Road and north. It would probably also take the ambulance longer to reach you.
- Taxis can no longer pick up and drop off outside our front door, a nuisance for residents who are not very mobile, or for people arriving with heavy luggage.

There is a meeting at Lumen Church, Tavistock Place, at 7pm on Monday evening, September 19. But whether you go to the meeting or not, please look at the Camden consultation and consider opposing the trial and supporting a return to two way car traffic.

Thanks for reading this!

Diana, 6 Tavistock Place, 0207 278 8645 or 07887 914915