



Easton Voice – Letter for consideration by all councillors prior the end of the statutory consultation period (16.11.2018) for the Traffic Regulation Order to introduce the prohibition of driving in the length of Bannerman Road which extends from Albion Road south westwards for 30 metres. Reference: CAE/RGW/P-1108

Dear Councillors,

We have been made aware that a Traffic Regulation Order has been issued for the planned closure of Bannerman Road which extends from Albion Road south westwards for 30 metres.

We were surprised to learn that a TRO has been issued when it was our clear understanding that the Easton Safer Streets proposals had been cancelled and that this cancellation was supported by you.

It is extraordinary that more professional council time and money (that you don't have) is being spent on this proposal. You are aware that we have significant other issues in Easton that need your attention but are being ignored due to insufficient resources and funding. We will be asking for a formal investigation of why the council and councillors are still pushing this road closure agenda, which is not supported by clear evidence of benefit and runs counter to the wishes of many in the community.

We understand that this road closure is being supported by the disputed evidence supplied by the Easton Safer Streets (ESS) project. The consultation process conducted by Sustrans on behalf of ESS, at cost of £83,600, was clearly flawed and did not create proposals that are **acceptable to LOCAL people**. This is why the ESS proposals were overwhelmingly rejected by Easton residents.

We would like to remind councillors that the residents of Easton were overwhelmingly opposed to road closures. Easton Voice has previously supplied objections of **930** Easton residents, businesses and faith groups, and we again ask you as our elected representatives not to ignore these objections.

Our full evidence on the failures and ineffectiveness of the consultation process have previously been detailed to yourselves, Easton Safer Streets and other key project leaders/stakeholders.

We would also like to point out that following new feedback from Easton residents, we believe there are other impacts that need to be considered as part of the bigger picture. None of the below seem to have been considered before the TRO has been issued. We will hold the Councillors and the Council jointly accountable if these concerns become reality. If the road closure is approved we believe that it will have the opposite effect and could:

Increase crime

Where roads are closed, with little evening throughput of pedestrians/cars, there is every possibility it will be used as a place for drug dealing and drug use. The bridge is a covered area which is ideal. Residents are also concerned of their safety when walking on this road (especially in the dark) as it will effectively become a quiet zone at times other than when school is open.

Fly tipping

We have an issue in Bristol with fly tipping. This is especially prevalent in dead end roads. Fly tipping is likely to become a problem.

Van dwellers

The housing shortage is having a significant impact on the ability of people to have place to live. As we have seen in other areas of Easton, where roads are closed they are used by van dwellers. You are aware that Easton is already trying to manage this issue and this could increase the problem.

Accidents and road rage incidents

There is every possibility that changing the flow of traffic will increase accidents and road rage. Pushing cars via the proposed alternative route is not viable as these are narrow congested streets. This will also increase pollution.

Other questions:

Q1) The car park and parking spaces near Bannerman Road school are frequently full of cars (during school hours) and we would like to know what effort the school has taken to reduce car use by school staff and parents of the school's pupils. It would be unfortunate if residents of Easton are impacted by this road closure, which has been supported and campaigned for by the school, when cars are clearly in use as a primary means of transport for both staff and parents.

Q2) Have the residents on the proposed alternative route (Normanby Road, Graham road, Chaplin Road, Lawrence Avenue, St Marks Road) been consulted about the impact of this road closure? It would be unfortunate if your proposals increase traffic and pollution to those who have not had the opportunity to express their views.

Before the 16th November we ask that you support the voice of the local residents, especially those from BAME and the elderly community, and reject this TRO.

The clear message from the whole community is that they want traffic improvements but not road closures. Do not ignore the diverse community that has elected you, represent them!

Easton Voice

About Easton Voice

Easton Voice is a resident group formed in response to the 'Easton Safer Streets' proposals, a Bristol City Council traffic and transport initiative being pursued in order to gain grant funding from the UK government's 'Cycling Ambition Fund'.

The primary goal of Easton Voice is simply to give our whole community a chance to express their views on any proposals put forward by any organisations/groups.

The Easton Voice group is funded only by voluntary contributions made by the founding members of the group and is not affiliated with any political organisation/group.

More information about Easton Voice can be found at www.eastonvoice.org.uk