



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Leon Daniels
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Dear Leon

I was recently sent the results of your consultation on the proposed changes to bus arrangements in Clapham Old Town.

I would like to take issue with the statements made in your consultation report on a factual basis.

I am writing because I am dismayed that you appear to have rubber stamped Lambeth's proposals that clearly are not in the interest of my constituents.

Surely TfL's responsibility is to make improvements to public transport, not worsen it.

Your consultation clearly highlights the dissatisfaction by the majority of bus users, who you serve, as well as local residents.

Consultation results.

The fundamental question which you asked was;

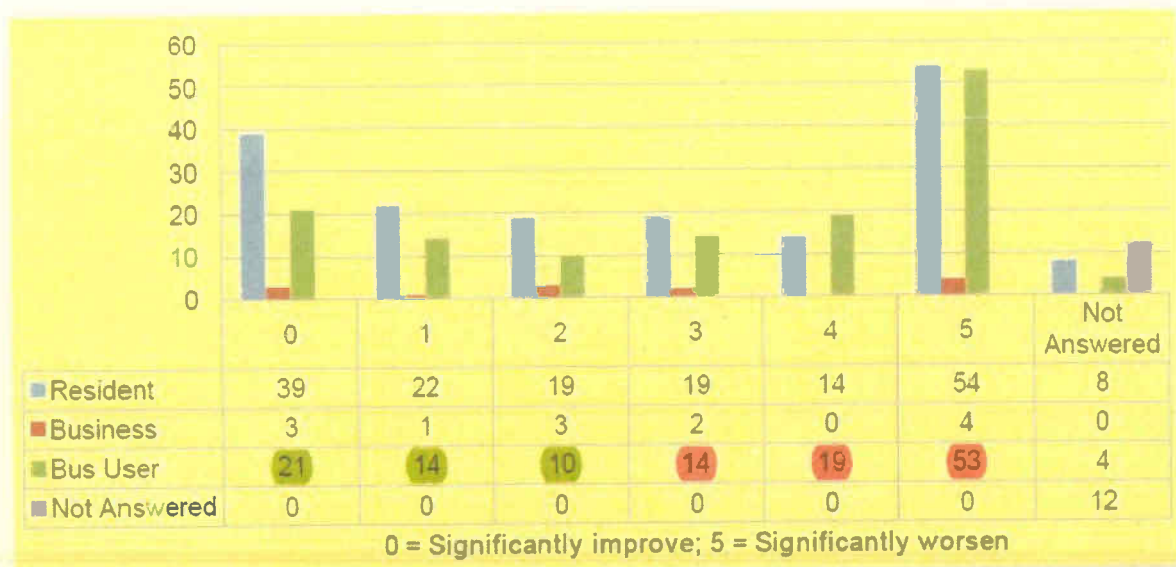
Q4: Do you think the proposals will help improve your journey?
Respondents used a scale of 0 - 5 to determine how the proposals will improve their journey?



109 respondents said it would NOT improve their journey as compared to 88, who said it would improve their journey.

So a clear majority say their journeys would not be improved with 75 respondents saying it would "significantly worsen" their journeys.

When the above figures were broken down to just bus users your results show that 86 bus users said that their journey would not be improved with only 45 saying that it would improve their journey.



This is an even bigger majority against the proposed arrangement.

TfL said that they would display posters about the consultation in the local bus shelters. I am very surprised and disappointed that you did not appear to have put up any posters on the bus shelters in Old Town, The Pavement and Northside. Why not?

I am confident that many bus users were totally unaware of your consultation. If they had been aware they would have further increased the majority view.

Your report says;-

1. "and will help inform our final decision making on the proposals". Can you say who and when the final decision is being made?
2. "Currently up to nine buses, from three routes can be accommodated at the Old Town stand. Making the current stand fully accessible would mean

additional land would be required thus severely reducing the public space and urban realm for pedestrians".

This is misleading and inaccurate for the following reasons;-

- You are confusing capacity with use. I have attended a number of meetings with TfL where both TfL and the Council said that the maximum number (excluding emergencies) at any one time was 5 buses. Therefore the current stand could be made accessible without any additional land being required. You had previously been advised of this in the Alan Baxter report.
- There is no dispute between any of the interested parties that only the 88 and 417 buses would use the triangle in the future - so only two bus routes and four stands. So again there is no question of additional land being required.
- David Rowe put forward proposals showing that only four live stands were required for the 88 and 417 routes - with no additional land required.
- If you are saying that three stands are required for each route (i.e. three stands per bus) why are you proposing only four stands in the scheme rather than 6?

3. Your report lists comments from respondents on the proposed location of the bus stops;-

"The bus stop at the stand should be made accessible, not removed".

You responded;

"The latter is a key aspiration for Lambeth Council. Working together with Lambeth Council we have identified alternative locations for bus stops that offer the best solution for passengers. The new locations will be accessible and convenient for all to use".

This is misleading and inaccurate.

It does not offer the best solution for passengers or nearby residents. At my meetings with Leon and David they both stated several times to the Council that bus stops should not be near residential accommodation, in visual site of each other and not have safety issues.

"Can the bus stop location be altered from outside the old Library?

"We have worked with Lambeth Council to find suitable locations for bus stops that provide an accessible location for people to get on and off buses. The new location for the zebra crossing helps connect Old Town (west), the triangle and Old Town (east). We are not planning to alter the location of this stop".

Again this is misleading and inaccurate.

Originally the bus alighting stop was proposed to be outside Starbucks in Old Town west which meant that the zebra crossing could be retained in the optimum position and there was a line of sight to the bus boarding stop. It was then moved to outside the Old library when the residents above Starbucks asked for it to be moved!

This also meant that the zebra crossing had to be moved to an inferior position.

The Allan Baxter report highlighted the safety issues with the new position of the bus stop outside the Old Library.

The stop was then slightly moved and traffic from Orlando Road was made "no right turn" (thereby forcing southbound traffic to use Old Town east which defeats a stated aim of the Council) and the Council's report still acknowledged there were safety concerns.

When 15 of the residents above the proposed bus boarding stop (and Sainsbury's) in Old Town east complained about the total unsuitability of the proposed bus stop by them - nothing was done.

In conclusion, we all know that the current proposals, which are driven by the Council's vision, are in the interests of bus users.

The majority of residents and bus users have clearly said to you that their journeys will be worse.

I await the results of the Council's Traffic Management Order Consultation. I am confident that this will also highlight that the majority will oppose a number of elements. Doubtless the Council will try and "spin" the response to show that this is not the case.

I think the above puts you under an obligation to require changes to the scheme.

I must also put in writing my great concern about the proposed contra-flow cycle lane on The Pavement and Old Town east.

With cars parked on both sides of the road, incoming junctions from two sides and a mixture of loading bays / a bus stop etc, I think that this is a recipe for disaster as far as cyclist's safety is concerned.

Best wishes,



Kate Hoey

Cc Isabel Dedring, Deputy Mayor, Transport