



Ian Ward Leader of the BCC et al

Wednesday 26th May 2021

Dear Ian (via Laraine.Franklin@birmingham.gov.uk) and others
How to, “build a cleaner, greener and safer city”

Thanks for your considered response to my letters the latest of which was sent on 25th May¹. I much appreciate it.

I have comments on your plans which I would like you and your colleagues to take into account as the Project Board’s remit takes shape. They are as follows:

1. **Firstly:** I, and no doubt other residents in Moseley and Kings Heath, would like to be involved with the Project Board at the outset. We want to see the Board’s Remit/Aim, Objectives and Assessment Methods **before** the Project gets going. And contribute positively and constructively. We don’t want to only be involved in the Project at the end. We want to be involved at the beginning.
2. **Secondly:** We have doubts as to whether LTNs, as currently constituted, are part of the solution. They are too blunt an instrument. More subtle measures are needed. I think it would be best to start with a clean-slate
3. **Thirdly:** The BCC target of being a Carbon Neutral city in nine years’ time is impractical and unattainable and should be modified. See Footnote².

¹ See Correspondence below this letter

4. **Fourthly:** I am puzzled by this Press Release [link](#)
- It strongly suggests that the current Pilot LTN road blockages will remain which I believe is a mistake
 - It says that, "...there will be full public consultation on new designs" which isn't the same as early involvement in setting the Project Remit etcetera – It still gives the public a passive role
 - It's always puzzled me how and why LTNs were badged as Covid-19 control measures. If anything they probably made things marginally worse by forcing people to be too close.
 - There's a certain dissimulation in the, "...*significant amount of feedback...*" sentence. I don't know but I'd be pretty amazed is the people contacting BCC were equally divided between, "*for and against*" LTN measures.

I think we're all on-the-same-page in wanting safer less polluted streets which allow people to use cars and buses and other vehicles such as lorries and bikes. In the next 20 years the options will have expanded. The problem is what to do in the next 20 years while mass use of electric cars come on stream.

I hope you find our suggestions useful. I, no doubt friends in Woodfield Road are keen to work with the Project team you've set up.

Best wishes

Mark Piney

cc Sonya Clarke, Rick Robinson, Kerry XX Steve McCabe MP and Tahir Ali MP, local Councillors Mary Locke, Martin Straker Welds, Kerry Jenkins, Mike Leddy, Lisa Trickett and Katherine Iroh

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² 2030 is unrealistic because it's impractical. In perhaps 20 years time probably all vehicles will run on electricity and many (most) will be self-driving. But it's going to take a while to get to this position and in the meantime there's the huge legacy of petrol and diesel vehicles to phase out. It will take at least 20 years to do this both because the electric vehicles don't exist in quantity at the moment nor are the re clean ways of generating the huge amounts of electricity needed to charge the electric fleet.

PS Please also see and Share this generic message - For my **latest COVID-19 exposure control guidance** "*Basic notes: Staying safe from Sars-CoV-2 virus^[1] and why the exposure controls work Version 5, 26th April 2021*" see this [link](#) which shows both drafts and this [link](#) to see the latest (Version 5) published on 26th April.

From: Laraine Franklin <Laraine.Franklin@birmingham.gov.uk> **On Behalf Of** Councillor Ian Ward

Sent: 26 May 2021 09:15

To: Mark Piney <markpiney@blueyonder.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Please respond re: Pilot LTNs Kings Heath businesses and my letter of 15 May

Dear Dr Piney,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes in Moseley and Kings Heath. I want to assure you that we are committed to working with residents and businesses to adapt and improve the schemes and we will use local feedback to shape changes.

As part of that commitment, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment Cllr Waseem Zaffar and I have met with local MPs Steve McCabe MP and Tahir Ali MP, and local Councillors Mary Locke, Martin Straker Welds, Kerry Jenkins, Mike Leddy, Lisa Trickett and Katherine Iroh to discuss a way forward.

We agreed that a dedicated project board will be created to oversee any future phases, including the continued development of travel plans to encourage walking and cycling to school and full public consultation on new designs.

We will also undertake a series of 'quick fix' measures to improve traffic flow in congested locations including better signage and changes to traffic signal timings.

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods are one of a number of measures that will be crucial if we are going to meet our ambitious target for the city to become carbon neutral by 2030. However, I acknowledge that change often leads to disruption and we must listen to feedback as we fine tune and adapt schemes. Furthermore, we will also engage with the community on the outcome of any changes to ensure that local views are heard.

We are determined to build a cleaner, greener and safer city for future generations of Birmingham citizens and will work with our communities in the coming weeks and months to get these big decisions right.

Councillor Ian Ward

^[1] The cause of COVID 19 disease

Leader of Birmingham City Council
Tel : 0121 464 4000

From: Mark Piney <markpiney@blueyonder.co.uk>
Sent: 25 May 2021 12:15
To: Councillor Ian Ward <Ian.Ward@birmingham.gov.uk>; Councillor Kerry Jenkins <Kerry.Jenkins@birmingham.gov.uk>; Councillor Lisa Trickett <Lisa.Trickett@birmingham.gov.uk>; Joe Green <Joe.Green@birmingham.gov.uk>
Cc: 'andy.street@wmca.org.uk'; sonya.clarke@blueyonder.co.uk; 'Mark Piney' <markpiney@blueyonder.co.uk>; 'Liz Stafford' <lizstaffordhome@googlemail.com>
Subject: Please respond re: Pilot LTNs Kings Heath businesses and my letter of 15 May

Dear Ian, Kerry and Lisa

I wrote to you, copy to quite a few others, 10 days ago. I haven't received a reply or even an acknowledgement which is disappointing. I attached a short critique of the Pilot LTNs as a project (with no aim, objectives or clear assessment methods, with some suggestions (no doubt there are other measures). Others in my Road including Sonya Clarke and Rick Robinson have submitted a formal proposal which Liz my wife and I support.

This morning I went to get my hair cut at Mankind, 31 Poplar Road. Mary McTernan has run her small business for at least 15 years. She told me how badly her business had been hit by the LTN. Passing trade has dried up and between the school runs Poplar Road is a ghost town. Mary works on her feet all day and her journey time to and from work has increased from ~15 minutes to ~45 minutes. The Pilot LTNs are wearing her out and stressing her badly. Neville who runs Contrasts the florists on Poplar Road reports a big drop in trade and is praying for the day when the 'flower-pots' will be removed from outside his shop. Other businesses up-and-down KH High Street have no doubt been similarly affected. And I notice the protest posters in the windows of many houses in Vicarage Road.

There are a range of ways of slowing traffic, making the roads safer and allowing smooth traffic flow (see my letter). At the moment Pilot LTNs are the worst of all worlds – they increase stationary traffic, they clog up the roads, they increase journey times, they damage KH businesses and they stress many small business owners. There has got to be a better way which has to start with the removal of the 'flower-pots' and planning and doing a traffic calming project properly (see letter).

I would ask that someone from BCC phone me to discuss. Or, at the very least, responds to my emails.

Thanks for your time.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Mark Piney

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PS Please also see and Share this generic message - For my **latest COVID-19 exposure control guidance** "*Basic notes: Staying safe from Sars-CoV-2 virus^[1] and why the exposure controls work Version 5, 26th April 2021*" see this [link](#) which shows both drafts and this [link](#) to see the latest (Version 5) published on 26th April.

From: Mark Piney <markpiney@blueyonder.co.uk>
Sent: 20 May 2021 14:23
To: 'kerry.jenkins@birmingham.gov.uk' <kerry.jenkins@birmingham.gov.uk>;
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Cc: 'Liz Stafford' <lizstaffordhome@googlemail.com>; 'Mark Piney' <markpiney@blueyonder.co.uk>
Subject: Project management, BCC Pilot LTNs – a better way 20th May 2021

Dear Andy, Liam, Jenny, Ian, Kerry, Martin, Waseem, Phil, Ian, Joe and Lisa
Project management, BCC Pilot LTNs – a better way 20th May 2021

Please see attached my letter concerning the poorly thought-through- poorly-enacted and poorly-consulted Pilot Low Traffic Network (LTNs) imposed on Kings heath and Moseley and other parts of Birmingham.

[1] The cause of COVID 19 disease

Like many other residents I believe that there's a much easier, simpler and effective way of slowing traffic while keeping it flowing and getting other benefits.

I look forward to your replies.

Best wishes

Mark Piney

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