

Freedom of Information request reference number: 6322.1

Date of response: 02 February 2022

Request:

I would be grateful if you could please provide:

- 1. The Emergency Access Impact Assessment undertaken for the Bethnal Green Liveable Streets scheme (low-traffic neighbourhood)*
- 2. Correspondence between the LFB and Tower Hamlets Council concerning emergency access with respect to the modal filters installed on Barnet Grove, Wellington Row and Quilter Street (specifically relating to the TOWER HAMLETS (QUILTER STREET AND WELLINGTON ROW) (TRAFFIC MOVEMENT AND SPEED LIMIT REGULATIONS) (MAP BASED) (EXPERIMENTAL) ORDER 2021 THE TOWER HAMLETS (QUILTER STREET AND WELLINGTON ROW) (WAITING LOADING AND STOPPING RESTRICTIONS) (MAP BASED) (EXPERIMENTAL) ORDER 2021 THE TOWER HAMLETS (QUILTER STREET AND WELLINGTON ROW) (PARKING PLACES) (MAP BASED) (EXPERIMENTAL) ORDER 2021*
- 3. Details of any requests made by the LFB for changes to: (a) The Bethnal Green Liveable Streets Scheme (b) The Experimental Traffic Management Orders (ID 3789349) outlined in (2) above with many thanks*

Response:

The LFB responded to another FOI request on 11 August 2021 in relation to the Bethnal Green Liveable Streets scheme. My response to your queries below uses the information held at this time:

- 1. The Emergency Access Impact Assessment undertaken for the Bethnal Green Liveable Streets scheme (low-traffic neighbourhood)*

Under the arrangements that were in place for implementation of Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) schemes, any impact assessment would be done by the local Council; in this case Tower Hamlets Council. The local council is not required to consult with the emergency services, but it is clear that the Brigade was invited to comment on the Council's Liveable Streets scheme at the time.

- 2. Correspondence between the LFB and Tower Hamlets Council concerning emergency access with respect to the modal filters installed on Barnet Grove, Wellington Row and Quilter Street (specifically relating to the TOWER HAMLETS (QUILTER STREET AND WELLINGTON ROW) (TRAFFIC MOVEMENT AND SPEED LIMIT REGULATIONS) (MAP BASED) (EXPERIMENTAL) ORDER 2021 THE TOWER HAMLETS (QUILTER STREET AND WELLINGTON ROW) (WAITING LOADING AND STOPPING RESTRICTIONS) (MAP BASED) (EXPERIMENTAL) ORDER 2021 THE TOWER HAMLETS (QUILTER STREET AND WELLINGTON ROW) (PARKING PLACES) (MAP BASED) (EXPERIMENTAL) ORDER 2021*
- 3. Details of any requests made by the LFB for changes to: (a) The Bethnal Green Liveable Streets Scheme (b) The Experimental Traffic Management Orders (ID 3789349) outlined in (2) above with many thanks*

For your questions 2 and 3, although the Brigade itself has not undertaken an "emergency access impact assessment" I can confirm that we liaised very closely with Tower Hamlets Council. The Station Commander (SC) at Bethnal Green, has provided me with significant correspondence with the Council not only relating to the initial planning of the scheme, but also in relation to specific issues and problems that have arisen subsequently (e.g. Jesus Green Estate access issues in May/June 2021).

Copies of this correspondence is included in this document on pages 03 to 11. Personal data has been removed from the attached document under section 40 of the FOIA – Personal Information.

The Brigade worked with local councils to support proposed changes and as required by the statutory guidance. The Brigade continues to work with local councils, and other stakeholders such as Transport for London (TfL), to support the Mayor of London's Streetspace Programme. This is part of our commitment to help secure sustainability goals and to help people travel safely in the light of the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has presented for our city.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request on our website: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/transparency/request-information-from-us/>

From: Tower Hamlets Council
Sent: 18 June 2021 14:10:26
To: LFB ;
Cc: @projectcentre.co.uk; LiveableStreets; ,
@nhs.net; @met.police.uk
Subject: RE: URGENT - Jesus Green Estate LTN access issues
Importance: High

As per the meeting yesterdays I can confirm the eastern planter on Barnet grove will be moved east so it is straddling the kerb which will allow you access for this Sundays market, at around 8am tomorrow (Saturday) morning.

I have requested a parking suspension for the bay on Barnet Grove which will be in place for late next week and therefore market day.

Also the Traffic order changes discussed including the change to two way working on Barnet Grove between Gosset St and Wellington Row will become live from the 5th July

Any issues please let me know

Kind regards

From: @london-fire.gov.uk
Sent: 09 June 2021 18:03
To: Tower Hamlets Council ;
Cc: @projectcentre.co.uk; LiveableStreets ; @london-fire.gov.uk;
@london-fire.gov.uk; @london-fire.gov.uk; @nhs.net; @met.police.uk
Subject: RE: URGENT - Jesus Green Estate LTN access issues
Importance: High

Thank you for meeting me at Barnet Grove again today to discuss the way forward regarding the Jesus Green estate.

We agreed that;

1. The planters on the Northern side of the junction Wellington Row and Barnet Grove have been moved too far and will be moved back again.
2. You are currently waiting for a TMO to be able to remove the parking bays on the northern side of the Barnet grove closure.
3. You are currently waiting for a TMO to be able to remove the 2 NO ENTRY signs on the junction of Barnet Grove and Gossett Road.
4. You are currently waiting for the signage for the ES only access at Gossett Road Junction of Columbia Road.
5. You will give me timescales for the TMO and works to be completed.
6. You have also mentioned about your intention to install a Gerda lock on the collapsible/lockable Bollard at the Barnet Grove/Wellington Row North closure. I stated that while we carry a Gerda key, this is not our preferred choice of managed closure and that we would still like to see the installation of an ANPR camera to allow free access to ALL emergency services.

In the interim period and due to the fact that the timescales may take a while, I would like to request that consideration be given to removing the planters (suspending) at Barnet Grove/Wellington Row North

until the TMO has been granted and the works complete. This would ensure that we had access until the full measures are put in place after the granting of the TMO.

I look forward to your reply.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Station Commander | F26 Bethnal Green

Tel: 0208 555 1200 [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Pager/Callsign | [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk>

Sent: 08 June 2021 16:47

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@towerhamlets.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@towerhamlets.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@projectcentre.co.uk>; LiveableStreets@towerhamlets.gov.uk;
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@towerhamlets.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@towerhamlets.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nhs.net>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>

Subject: RE: URGENT - Jesus Green Estate LTN access issues

Importance: High

I have taken a drive thorough the area again yesterday morning, and as you can see I the picture attached we are still unable to gain access through this closure due to the car parking spaces not being removed and parked cars in those spaces reducing our access. We also have the issue of the no entry signs at the junction of Gosset Road and Barnet grove (I have attached a plan).

I would like a site meeting to discuss this please. We had a site meeting prior to these changes and its not been implemented as was agreed, which has still left us with no access.

I look forward to your replies.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Station Commander | F26 Bethnal Green

Tel: 0208 555 1200 [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Pager/Callsign | [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk>

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

Sent: 28 May 2021 16:13

To: LFB; [REDACTED]

Cc: [\[REDACTED\]@projectcentre.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@projectcentre.co.uk); LiveableStreets; [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@nhs.net](mailto:[REDACTED]@nhs.net); [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@met.police.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@met.police.uk)

Subject: Re: URGENT - Jesus Green Estate LTN access issues

Hi [REDACTED] and colleagues,

The no entry signs at the junction of Barnet Grove and Wellington Row have been removed. See attached image. Alongside the planters at the north of this junction, the planters will be reinstated at the east of this junction with 'no motor vehicles' signs visible following resurfacing works which conclude today.

We will also be liaising with colleagues in the parking service regarding implementing double yellow lines around this junction to aid turning. As you can see in the image, there are currently

single yellow lines on the western side which means parked vehicles there can impede larger southbound vehicles turning right from Barnet Grove into Wellington Row.

Let me know if you require any further clarification on access at this junction.

Regards,

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 May 2021 12:03
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@towerhamlets.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@projectcentre.co.uk>; LiveableStreets <LiveableStreets@towerhamlets.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@towerhamlets.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@towerhamlets.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nhs.net>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nhs.net>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>
Subject: RE: URGENT - Jesus Green Estate LTN access issues

Further to our telephone call at 11:55Hrs this morning we have discussed the lack of access from the south and I have asked for either of the options below to be implemented.

1. The No entry signs on Barnet Grove from Gosset Road going North in to Barnet Grove and the Wellington Row Junction moving North into Barnet grove, could be replaced with a 'NO ENTRY except for Emergency Services' sign. This would allow us to use this as access. It was discussed about potentially removing the no entry signs totally.
2. Alternatively, The Planters at Wellington Row (east) of Barnet Grove could be removed until the TMO for the 2 way on Barnet Grove and the (removal/amendment) of the No entry signs is completed, allowing us access into the north side of Barnet Grove around Durrant Street, and while not ideal, it would go some way to ensuring that we had access from South to North.

As discussed you will inform me later of what is going to be implemented today so that I can ensure crews are aware of the access into the North side of Barnet Grove from the South.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Station Commander | F26 Bethnal Green

Tel: 0208 555 1200 [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Pager/Callsign: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk

From: LFB
Sent: 28 May 2021 10:49
To: Tower Hamlets Council

Cc: @projectcentre.co.uk; LiveableStreets; @nhs.net; @met.police.uk

Subject: RE: URGENT - Jesus Green Estate LTN access issues

Thank you for your reply.

I have had access checks both yesterday and today. Wellington Row for the last 2 days (27th and 28th May), has been inaccessible due to the road works (being planed and resurfaced). I have attached pictures for your attention.

While Wellington Row looks clear and we have access to it, this was not the case yesterday and will not be the case later on today when they start to redress the tarmac.

The emergency access at Gossett Road Junction of Columbia Road is available and I have noticed that it now has a camera enforcement notice on it (thank you), however there is still no signage that I could see that states it is access for emergency services only.

Presently:

1. The planters at Ravenscroft junction of Quilter are still in place.
2. The Road is being resurfaced on Wellington Row (Due to be finished today)
3. The planters to the east of Barnet grove Junction with Wellington Row have been removed due to the resurfacing works but will be reinstated today.
4. The planters on the North of Barnet Grove junction of Wellington Row are still in place and have **not been moved the 2m** back into Barnet grove (North) as you have stated and is shown in the picture provided. I have also noticed a 'Camera Enforcement' sign and camera here too. Can I ask if this is the traffic order that you talk about and will this be changed to ANPR as we have requested?
5. In the picture provided Wellington Row junction of Barnet Grove (North) you can clearly see that the Bollard is removed, but there are still NO ENTRY signs in place, and as previously stated by both myself, [REDACTED] (MPS) and [REDACTED] (LAS) on numerous occasions, we do not have any exemption as emergency services to go against a No Entry. Any driver doing so, even in the course of their duties, would be acting **outside** of our exemptions under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.

Therefore as I have stated, when the market is on during Sunday, we have NO access from the South at all. All access must be made from Hackney Road and through Ropley Road.

[REDACTED]
Station Commander | F26 Bethnal Green

Tel: 0208 555 1200 [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Pager/Callsign | [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk)

From: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

Sent: 28 May 2021 09:05

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [\[REDACTED\]@projectcentre.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@projectcentre.co.uk); LiveableStreets; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: URGENT - Jesus Green Estate LTN access issues

Thanks for your email.

I can confirm that as per our agreement on site the planters on Barnet grove have been moved 2m to the north to allow access from the south (and north) . There is currently no bollard in place at this closure due to it being removed by a member of the public.

With regards to the one way working on the link of Barnet Grove between Gosset Street and Barnet Grove, we are currently drafting traffic orders to make this change. I will keep you informed of when this change comes into effect. In the mean time access to Barnet Grove can be gained from the south via Wellington Row.

I also wanted to confirm that ES access is still available via the Gosset Street closure and also via Ropley Street as per our previous agreements.

I hope this resolves your issues as stated in your email.

Kind regards

From: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk) [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk)>

Sent: 27 May 2021 08:49

To: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@towerhamlets.gov.uk)>

Cc: [\[REDACTED\]@projectcentre.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@projectcentre.co.uk); LiveableStreets <LiveableStreets@towerhamlets.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk); [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk);
[REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk); [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@towerhamlets.gov.uk)>

Subject: URGENT - Jesus Green Estate LTN access issues

Importance: High

This is to confirm the discussion we had on the phone at approx 12:50hrs on 26th May 2021.

It has been noted that the Full road closure at the junction of Ravenscroft and Quilter Street has now been implemented. This has removed the access that we had while the remedial work was being completed on the Lockable bollard and planters that are on the north side of the junction of Barnet grove and Wellington Row, as agreed in my e mail dated 12th May after our site visit (Attached).

The one way signs are still in place on Barnet Grove (This was going to be changed to 2 way to allow us access north on Barnet Grove) and neither the planters or the lockable bollard at this junction have been moved as per the agreement in the attached e mail.

As previously stated, we **do not** have exemption to ignore a 'No Entry' sign and would therefore not attempt this.

It isn't acceptable that we have been left without any access from Bethnal Green Road into the estate of Jesus Green. Its even more concerning that these closures have happened and the agreed access has not been maintained for ES vehicles moving south to north along Barnet Grove from Wellington Row towards Columbia Road. Had an incident occurred on a Sunday and the market been in full swing then we would have had a detour of 1.5 miles down Hackney Road, through congested traffic and into Ropley Road to gain access to the north side of Barnet Grove.

As previously stated in my e mail (Attached) and at several previous meetings, I believe that the ONLY safe and effective method for allowing ES vehicles access from South to North on Barnet Grove is to use ANPR Enforced Cameras. This will give ALL Emergency Services the vital access they need to assist in making sure we can provide the essential services we are paid to provide to the members of our community and assist in keeping them safe.

I will be having my crews carry out regular access checks to ensure that we have a maintained access route as agreed while the works are continuing in the Jesus Green area.

We cannot and will not accept any road closures that may affect our attendance in an emergency situation. We are often required to provide reports for the coroner and we will cite any such road closures in these reports.

Regards

Station Commander | F26 Bethnal Green

Tel: 0208 555 1200

Mobile:

Pager/Callsign |

Email: [\[REDACTED\]@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto: [REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk)