

## Go and see your local councillor - here's how...

One really good way to let our council know how many people want to keep our safer streets is to go and see your local councillor. Anyone can do this. You don't have to book. You just go along to one of their surgeries (details in the table for Aspire councillors in Bethnal Green West and Weavers):

Date of surgery	Day of week	Time	Ward	Location	Councillor
Aug 18	Thu	17:30 - 19:00	Bethnal Green West	Kedleston Walk Community Centre	Abu Chowdhury/Amin Rahman/Mustak Ahmed
Aug 19	Fri	18:30 - 19:30	Weavers	Dunmore Point Hut, 47 Dunmore Point, Gascoigne Place, London E2 7LX	Kabir Ahmed
Aug 26	Fri	18:30 - 19:30	Weavers	Granby Community Hub, 37 St Matthew's Row, London E2 6D	Kabir Ahmed
Aug 27	Sat	12:30 - 14:30	Bethnal Green West	Collingwood Hall, Barnsley St, London E1 5RB	Abu Chowdhury/Amin Rahman/Mustak Ahmed
Sep 1	Thu	17:30 - 19:00	Bethnal Green West	Kedleston Walk Community Centre	Abu Chowdhury/Amin Rahman/Mustak Ahmed
Sep 2	Fri	18:30 - 19:30	Weavers	Dunmore Point Hut, 47 Dunmore Point, Gascoigne Place, London E2 7LX	Kabir Ahmed
Sep 9	Fri	18:30 - 19:30	Weavers	Granby Community Hub, 37 St Matthew's Row, London E2 6DT	Kabir Ahmed
Sep 10	Sat	12:30 - 14:30	Bethnal Green West	Collingwood Hall, Barnsley St, London E1 5RB	Abu Chowdhury/Amin Rahman/Mustak Ahmed
Sep 15	Thu	17:30 - 19:00	Bethnal Green West	Kedleston Walk Community Centre	Abu Chowdhury/Amin Rahman/Mustak Ahmed
Sep 16	Fri	18:30 - 19:30	Weavers	Dunmore Point Hut, 47 Dunmore Point, Gascoigne Place, London E2 7LX	Kabir Ahmed

If you're not sure if you live in Weavers or Bethnal Green West Ward, put your postcode into the checker on this page:

<https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgFindMember.aspx>

It is your right as a resident to do this. And it is our local councillors' duty to take the time to listen to residents. It's best to meet with Aspire councillors as they are the party that controls the council so we need to focus on persuading them.

Here are a few tips



- write down in advance a **list of 3-5 things you want to say**. Don't try for more than this. You don't know how much time you'll have so you need to stick to the most important things. It could be how:
  - Safer streets have made you feel safer or the neighbourhood feel friendlier or made your or your family's life healthier. Give specific examples eg you walk more or you feel safer crossing the street or having your children play locally or you've met more of your neighbours,
  - You don't want to see £2m of council money wasted by just putting things back as they were. We should learn from what has worked with the new street design and only spend money where tweaks are needed.
  - You want the council to listen to the 4 schools on Old Bethnal Green Road who are worried about children's health and safety. Or the local hospital trust who know these kind of schemes are better for everyone's health.
- if in doubt, **stick to your experiences and those of people you know**. It doesn't matter if you don't know statistics about the local area or you're not an expert on traffic flows. If something comes up that you're not comfortable talking about, just say 'well, I don't know about that, what I can tell you is that the current street design makes my life better because...'
- **avoid party politics**. Don't make general comments about the councillor or their party or the Mayor - unless you have a positive comment to make. You want to get them on your side and these kind of comments will make them feel less positively about you and less likely to agree with what you say.
- the one exception is **if you voted for Aspire, say so**. Many councillors think they were elected because voters wanted to 're-open the roads'. If you votes Aspire and want to keep the safer streets, say so. This could really help them to rethink their plans.
- If the councillor says something about safer streets making anything worse, eg air pollution or traffic congestion, **ask them where you can find this evidence**. Say you want to see the council publish this and you haven't seen this anywhere in the consultation document.
- **stay calm** even if they say things you disagree with or think are untrue. It's unlikely you'll persuade someone if you seem angry. You can always say: 'that's interesting, but my experience is the opposite...'



- whatever they say, **thank them for their time** at the end.
- if you can, **write a quick email** to [sossbgresearch@gmail.com](mailto:sossbgresearch@gmail.com) and let us know what they said.
- however the meeting goes, **feel proud** that you've done your part to keep our safer streets,

