

127 people responded to Living Wightman's survey when the bridge works were in place last summer. You can read their comments below. Full survey results and more can be found in our post [Fresh Start](#).

The experience was incredibly positive for the majority of local people – similar we suspect to what residents in Harringay Gardens already experience. Living Wightman want Haringey Council to protect blocks of residential streets across Haringey from through traffic. We want the Gardens and Hermitage areas to continue to be protected and for the Council to extend protection to other areas, starting with Harringay ladder and then moving on to other areas.

There were undoubtedly problems with traffic at some times of the day, during the bridge works.

We are campaigning for the Council's Package 4 – filtering BUT this must have other measures put in place to enable traffic and buses in particular to keep moving on the surrounding main roads.

1. It is much quieter in my flat without cars driving at speed past it. The air pollution has improved greatly. It used to be a horrible, polluted walk to Harringay station but it now feels much healthier. My flat mate and I much prefer the road not being used as a through road.
2. The biggest difference is sleep at night!
3. It's brought a community feel to the area which we never had
4. Can have windows open without constant noise and soot. Literally the best thing that the council could ever have done for living standards
5. I have no car, so I've only been positively affected by the closure. I had given up cycling seven years ago, when I was swept off my bike (with my 2 year old son on the back seat) by the door of a parked car opening when cycling home on Wightman Road. Now, I'm going to take up cycling to work again. My son is now 9 years old, and the closure has had a fantastic impact on him and his friends. They meet up spontaneously to play out and cycle around the neighbourhood. When Wightman Road was open to normal traffic, most parents didn't even let their children cross the road by themselves. Wightman Road isn't built for the amount of car traffic it has been having, which meant that the road (and even then pavements) have in fact been monopolised by cars, marginalising everybody else.
6. My bedroom is on the main road. Not only is there incessant noise but i can actually smell the pollution in my bedroom, which i am sure is affecting my health. The constant noise also was seriously beginning to affect my health as i could not get enough rest period. I am now able to sleep (without ear plugs) and even open my windows, which i would never have dreamt of before. These are basic human rights that are not afforded to me when the road re-opens.
7. My bedroom faces onto Wightman road so I sleep much better now and I can open my window on warm nights rather than put the electric fan on. My garden faces the road so I can enjoy the space without constant car noise peeping horns etc. I feel safe to cycle from my home so I don't need to use my car so much. I've met lots more neighbours now and the road feels more residential so I feel safer walking home at night and so don't need to drive. I've now made some friends along the street and feel the beginnings of a sense of community. I wonder if all the crumbling walls along the road are from vibration from heavy trucks.

8. Much quieter, cleaner and more pleasant to walk down. However, the surrounding roads are suffering from more traffic. I find it inconvenient when I want to go west, I have to do so via Green Lanes and Turnpike Lanes. Overall, there are a lot of positives to the closure, but any traffic reducing measures on Wightman must enable resident access, and find solutions to the knock on effects in the surrounding area.
9. Enormous. Total change of feeling in road – less stress, less noise and dirt, people more relaxed. No road rage the moment you TRY to get in your car. Can park without being abused by passing drivers.
10. I tried cycling once when I first moved to the ladder and it was so nerve wracking I put my bike away for nearly 2 years. Now that I can use Wightman...I cycle once a week to Angel and back, down to Arena for shopping, and even just for fun/exercise down to Finsbury Park sometimes!
11. It has made a huge difference to the quality of life here. The air is noticeably cleaner, it is much more peaceful and calm. We don't mind using the car less and generally try to avoid peak times when we know Green Lanes and the surrounding roads will be too busy. There are minor problems with some delivery services and bin collections, and some car journeys might take half an hour longer, but this is a small price to pay for a vastly improved home environment. Also, the wildlife around here is much more noticeable and seems to thrive more. I hope, perhaps naively, that it stays this way!
12. The key differences are: Waking up with no bitter taste in my mouth and easier breathing; not having to dust the grime off surfaces every day; safer crossing the roads: happier atmosphere in the neighbourhood – I have got to know more neighbours; everything is quieter and calmer; the plants in my window boxes have survived; I no longer get waken up several times a night by sirens or loud cars and lorries.
13. I drop my child at a nursery on Cavendish Rd and have to cross at Harringay Station to do so. It is so much easier to safely cross the road with my child and I can let him walk on the pavement instead of strapping him into the buggy. It feels safer now in such a narrow road to have no traffic. It was scary when the road was open and it felt like a horrible thoroughfare with no sense of community. Things feel different around there now and I like to see it stay the same.
14. I enjoy not having traffic build-up of cars coming from East going West who can't get in to Wightman Road – it cuts down on the noise of idle motors, sound systems, hooting and litter being thrown out of the cars. I have seen ashtrays being emptied. We also seem to have less dumping and fewer "boy racers" in cars but maybe a few more on mopeds, motor bikes and bikes but I can live with that. The reduced pollution is the main benefit and not jumping for your life from drivers jumping the red lights at the top of Hampden Road. We don't have a car and rarely use buses.
15. It has been a nightmare to drive – as someone suffering from MS this has been difficult resulting in working from home more often. On the other hand I also try to cycle as much as I can, and I am cycling more as I can now cycle down Wightman to Camden rather than having to avoid it and carry my bike over Hornsey Bridge. So a mixed bag – great for cycling and peacefulness – terrible on days I cannot cycle and terrible for my partner who is a builder and needs to drive a van for work – he is home so much later – there needs to be a strategy for the traffic driving East if Wightman was to remain closed, and a strategy for Willoughby road – on a Sunday it is impossible to turn right out of the bottom of our road into Willoughby due to the traffic jam, which

- makes me feel very worried as I feel trapped. Willoughby should also be closed to through traffic
16. The road – being free of car and lorry traffic – is a joy to walk along. Consequently I am now using it to access the Arena shopping park by foot, rather than driving
 17. The amount of rubbish and missed collections is disgusting
 18. It has reduced how often I go to Crouch end (or Muswell Hill in particular) for shopping as it is too congested coming back under the bridge. This is the case whether on the bus or in the car. Also access to the dump/ recycling centre is difficult/slow. I am doing my 'ladder circuit' jog less often as there is so much work going on in Wightman the pavements aren't so accessible and there are still cars.
 19. Puts at least 40 minutes on my daily commute to and from work
 20. It's great for many people who live on the Ladder and have no cars, but horrendous for those who live outside the area! I live on the West side of Hornsey and have stopped trying to go East in the afternoon (or early evening) by car or by bus, as it means miserably lengthy queues in traffic. I could walk there or cycle (weather permitting) but often I'd need to go much further and options then are: queue up in traffic for ages, redirect via Finsbury Park (not my route but slightly less congested), abandon plan (usually my choice). It's like a no-go zone. It's altered my lifestyle and, up my road, Hornsey High Street which was already congested during traffic hours has become a nightmare of vehicles at stand still and ongoing pollution. Hundreds (thousands!) of people will soon be living in the area due to new housing developments (Pembroke Works, St James's Square, Heartlands), meanwhile the Ladder residents are making plans to close Wightman Road for their own private benefit.
 21. I cycle daily to Westminster, before the closure the most dangerous part of my journey felt like Wightman Road. Also as a resident of a ladder road the reduction in cars and lorries using our road as a short cut has made a huge improvement in our quality of life.
 22. I have occasionally used Wightman as a cycling route to get to Crouch End, a road I would never normally cycle along due to the numerous pinch points.
 23. I don't live on the ladder but my children go to nursery on Willoughby rd. and we have to drive as the walk is too far from where we live in n15 to do as me and my husband work. The permanent closure to traffic of Wightman road would be a disaster for us as the traffic on green lanes has become terrible as a consequence and my once 10 minute car journey as now become at least 25 minutes some mornings. That's nearly an hour to do a return journey that should take me 20 mins. I realise that the air quality is now better on Wightman road, but come and do a traffic survey now on St Anne's road where every morning I'm sat in idling traffic! The cars have to go somewhere, and all its done is filtered them all out to use St Anne's rd. and Cornwall road. Its a disaster!
 24. Whilst it's nice for residents living on the ladder, the traffic effect on Green lanes/going to/from Crouch end is unbearable!! i CANNOT wait for the road to re-open, as its MCUH needed for traffic flows. Sorry, i know you all love the peace, but bigger picture, you live in zone 3 London, not the countryside. Deal with it or move.
 25. My road is much, much quieter and less polluted. I and my family are able to cycle along to Finsbury Park. We do own a car and drive mainly at the weekends. The road closure has obviously made all car journeys more

difficult but on balance I'd prefer to live in a quieter, cleaner area and maybe eventually ditch the car!

26. I can hear the birds singing. Far less air pollution. We drive less. I run along Wightman rd to Finsbury Park.
27. Quiet, Nice, Safe
28. I don't use my car unless I need to (drive to work, drive out of town, go to do a big shop) however on the occasions I have this has often add 30+ plus to my journey due to the traffic congestion it can caused around Ducketts common to get onto Green Lanes / Turnpike Lane – as it is all one way and roads are closes, once you have decided to do a journey I am committed to it as I can't easily get back to my street. In addition at the Turnpike Lane / Wightman Road junction where initially I could drive straight over and continue my normal route and complete in the same time this was adjusted and I now need to turn right onto Turnpike Lane and head onto Green Lanes, round Ducketts Common and finally to my street. Whilst the air quality and Wightman Road is quieter – it's just been shifted to the other main roads around and Ducketts Common – a 'Green Space' for people to enjoy.
29. I cannot possibly get somewhere on time.
30. I live at the other side of the bridge but often cross Wightman Road to go down to Green Lanes and also use it as a cycle route to Turnpike Lane. I more or less had stopped cycling because it is so unpleasant and also quite frightening to use as a cyclist. The alternative is travelling one stop by train, which is OK but not so convenient. I recently cycled all the way there and back from Harringay Station to Turnpike Lane and it was wonderful.
31. Higher pollution in Green Lanes because of standing traffic. Asthma much worse.
32. It takes a lot longer to get home, not happy with the road being closed!!!
33. Being able to feel more positive about my local area/ a greater sense of community/ relief from the pollution and noise created by traffic/ a better sense of wellbeing by increased walking
34. The air is cleaner and vehicles no longer speed up Umfreville using it as a rat run. It's lovely to see kids playing football on sight and in the evenings
35. Although the open roads have become more congested, there is now a safe route for me and my children to cycle which has meant we can. It has been lovely. I don't think the council will sit the road permanently but I do hope they will take the cars off the pavements and put in proper pedestrian crossing and effective traffic calming which will reduce the speed of the cars effectively. I would love it to stay closed though!
36. I feel free as the heavy traffic feels like it imprisoned me in the house. Now I have met many new neighbours and so feel much better about the neighbourhood as it is a much more positive place to be. You see how stressed all the people who live close by get when they have to cross the road. Now that I don't feel stressed by that my sense of wellbeing has risen a great deal
37. You literally couldn't cross the road before. The speed people travel down it (the speed bumps are useless) was so dangerous for a residential road. Also the air quality has changed unbelievably!
38. The road has been so much more pleasant since it's been closed. I didn't realise how much noise traffic made until the closure – now I can walk down the street and hear the bees buzzing! It also feels much safer as it was often very difficult to cross the road due to a constant stream of fast cars. Existing traffic calming measures do not seem to make any difference as cars regularly hit the speed bump outside my house so fast that I can feel the

building shake while lying in bed at the very back of the house. It would make a huge positive difference to me and my family if the road remained access only.

39. Added 40 minutes to my journey taking and dropping child to school
40. Living on Lothair Rd South has become far more peaceful. You can literally hear the peace! Birds singing, people playing in the street, less traffic and no more illegal right turns onto Wightman Rd. The area feels safer.
41. Dangerous cycling conditions on Wightman Road were a key reason I gave my bike away when I moved to this area over 20 years ago. Since Wightman has been closed I have actually bought a bike again and started enjoying exploring other safe cycling routes around London.
42. It has meant longer journeys travelling to work, much to my annoyance.
43. It can take me almost an hour to get home from work when it's only a 10 minute journey.
44. Quiet, safer residential roads. Safer cycle commute to city.
45. Traffic pollution in Green Lanes, difficulty trying to get to Sainsburys or Arena Park, Rd rage on the up
46. Made access to my elderly parents far more difficult
47. While it has been very quiet we have had problems with our rubbish collections. They have not collected as regularly as they should. Though this has improved in last two weeks. I have always had concerns not about the volume of traffic but the speed. These ridiculous speed bumps they have put are useless and cars do not need to slow down. I do feel that the main problem is with heavy goods vehicles. We are unable to use the bedrooms at the front of the house due to vibrations these lorries cause, they make the house shake. I am not in favour of making Wightman road car less. If I wanted to live on a quiet road I would move. There are a lot of residents here who rely on cars for various reasons, disabled children disabled adults, the elderly.
48. I think Wightman rd. should be open during the time-no time and as a result of this will be less people who we do not know around our property and no more dealing with selling-buying drugs between people on foot-cycled and from cars parking on empty Wightman rd.
49. Increased journey times, had to give up a pm job as traffic meant I could not get there on time; poor air quality on Green Lanes and Gardens, health problems,
50. I commute by bicycle to central London from West Green, previously via Green Lanes, now via Wightman Road. Much safer, healthier (less pollution), just much nicer. Have really enjoyed it.
51. School run made by car for more than 50% of journeys now able to make by foot and bike
52. It feels like a residential area that is quiet, calm and peaceful. It is a relaxing place to come home too, without cars racing along driving aggressively and noisily. Wightman Road is now a nice place for a stroll rather than a road to get off quickly to avoid the noise and impatience.
53. Safe route to cycle from turnpike lane to Finsbury Park.
54. The peacefulness is wonderful, we don't have to have the volume turned up on the television because of outside traffic noise, no huge lorries knocking mirrors off parked cars and driving away, less air pollution, less dangerous high speed drivers near schools, no one dropping litter from their car windows, just generally more pleasurable to go for walks in the street.
55. It has made a less dangerous and peaceful place with less pollution and noise

56. Access to Finsbury Park via bike with kids is much better. All round everything is much improved and the road now has a better sense of community
57. Am just worried about the traffic on Endymion Road and Green Lanes when I do have to drive
58. Difficult to travel down Green Lanes. Nicer on Wightman when walking with kids
59. Better for walking with a baby
60. My quality of sleep has improved helping my mental and physical health
61. Makes my journey to the train station much easier
62. Less stressful people are friendlier
63. It's been lovely having less traffic but a bit more inconvenient!
64. Much nicer atmosphere and less noise
65. Less cars and noise pollution
66. Much more pleasant walk to and from Hornsey Station every day
67. It's much better, and it's a residential road so should be closed
68. Easier to breathe. Lower pollution
69. Much nicer to walk through
70. It's generally a more peaceful environment. We can sleep better at night as less traffic going down our road!
71. I have grown up on Endymion Road, and have lived there since 1980. The road has always been busy, but it is now much worse, as there are now only two routes from Harringay northward. Both Endymion Road and Green Lanes (not to mention the junction with Williamson Road leading to Sainsbury's, which is terribly planned already) are frequently badly jammed, and no doubt the pollution is proportionally worse. As my family require our car for a number of things, it has made things very inconvenient and much slower. We are effectively shouldering the traffic burden for Wightman Road.
72. The cars are backed up along Willoughby road and every time I come out of my road I hit traffic. Green lanes is a nightmare to drive along or get the bus and even the post box near me has been closed. The traffic is appalling and goes right along priory road. People are much angrier when driving and the congestion has a very negative effect.
73. We have enjoyed the road outside being safer and quieter, however we do also need to address the extra burden on Green Lanes as a result of the Wightman closure. Our buses cannot move in peak traffic. Permanent bus lanes are needed.
74. It is far more pleasant to take a walk down Wightman road now as it is much more peaceful, less pollution and much safer.
75. Great for cycling into work and up to Wood Green with kids and on own. Terrible for public transport especially for disabled neighbours. Traffic pollution on Green Lanes, Turnpike Lane and Endymion is awful.
76. It has certainly reduced the traffic on my road with a noticeable difference in noise and safety but my sense is that this has so far just increased stress and problems elsewhere with resentment from people who have no choice about car use and those who use the bus regularly.
77. I can sleep at night without cars speeding over the speed humps, hear the birds, cross the road without fear, my breathing is better and I feel tranquil and calm without the traffic 24/7/36. We have given up our car and are selling it. We now walk and take public transport. I don't want to go back to way things were!
78. The lack of traffic is nice, but the impact it has on the W5 bus service makes life a bit miserable. This issue would absolutely have to be sorted out.

79. The road feels much safer and a better place to live
80. The absence of the continual buzz of traffic has given the area a great sense of calm. Our kids play on the roads now which they never did before.
81. Peaceful. People walking along Wightman road stop and chat because it's a quiet, safe place to do so. Groups of kids play out on the road together; it has become a communal play space. Cars speeding late at night no longer keep me awake. It is safer for my kids to cross Wightman road as cars frequently didn't used to stop at the pedestrian crossing at the top of Burgoyne despite the lights being red
82. Since Wightman road has been closed, the traffic in other areas has increased to unsustainable levels.
83. It has made getting anywhere in the borough very difficult, bus and car journeys are a nightmare, incidents of road rage are more common, emergency vehicles struggle to get through traffic, air quality in areas immediately surrounding the road have become much worse. I cannot wait for Wightman Road to open again in September.
84. I love it. Smiling faces, kids selling lemonade and so much quieter – no sirens and just feels safer and cleaner
85. I have lived here for nearly 30 years. With the road closure we have no rat running, no backed up cars, much less pollution (I suffer with allergies to dust and diesel fumes) ,a renewed sense of community, no house shaking when cars and enormous lorries go over the humps! Oh, nearly forgot the bird song, beautiful!
86. The partial closure of Wightman Road has enabled children to play in the street, has enabled my daughter (who is 4) to cycle to Finsbury park for the first time and it appears that many people who would have otherwise been too intimidated to cycle, to travel by bike safely.
87. Everyday life is vastly improved by the quiet road and improved air quality. For me though when I'm looking after my 2 year old grandchild who lives nearby I am less fearful when putting him in the car or crossing the road.
88. It has brought a lot more peace & quiet for the children of North Harringay Primary & less air pollution
89. The daily commute has become a much more pleasant experience. I used to dread coming back on Wightman road in the evening/at night, as it seemed to be enriched for aggressive drivers, but now I look forward to the ride along the road.
90. It's changed the tone of everything. I think it should become a park. And herald the way for many such parks across the country. Thus also reducing car usage which we need to do if we want to stop global warming going to destructive levels
91. Higher levels of well-being, hearing bird-song, walking to school in the mornings on a quicker route (we use the passage normally to avoid air pollution), cleaner air.
92. It has made my journey to university (Angel) much safer, the Wightman Road segment was by far the most dangerous part. It is much less noisy in my flat, but the flipside is I felt safer walking along Wightman Road at night when there was more traffic on it (I don't feel unsafe now, but a bit more wary).
93. I can finally cycle safely with my two children to school and to the local parks. Our road is much quieter with a huge reduction in the number of cars racing down the hill from Wightman rd to Green lanes.
94. It's a much nicer road to live on. I understand it may not be practical to close but this surely highlights the need to consider some serious traffic calming measures.

95. Less noise. Less pollution. Friendlier. Less litter. Less house shaking from passing lorries. Safer for school children. Cleaner air. Like a residential road. Quality of life demonstrably better.
96. The air is fresher, the birds are singing, children cycle on the road and people are smiling.
97. The road seems a lot more peaceful, less stressful in the morning and on my way home from work. Crossing is easier.
98. Less traffic and noise on ladder roads. Fewer people using their cars for pointless local journeys.
99. Not to me personally, but it must be lovely for Wightman Road residents with the road now being a non-through road
100. We live near the top of Seymour road and use Wightman road a lot. Since being closed it has created a tangibly relaxed community friendly feeling in the area that spans as far as the passage and the air quality is dramatically less polluted. Not having the traffic noise constantly in the background enables you to switch off from the rigours of London living. I also use Green lanes to drive to work as I have to transport more than I could carry on the tube. GL is noticeably more congested but the yellow markings at the bottom of the ladder roads has helped a lot. Could it be a RED ROUTE? I would rather put up with longer travel time into work and keep Wightman as a no through road but as a resident I would like to be able to travel east without having to go up to Turnpike Lane and sitting in smelly traffic there for hours. It has also made us cycle more if going east and local instead of driving e.g. to Crouch End or Stationers Park.
101. Cycling down Wightman road is now safe and pleasant, and my wife now also cycles along it whereas there is no way that would have happened before!
102. Give us a break, I don't like traffic on my road either
103. Safer for me and my family. Cleaner air. Able to ride bike much more. More enjoyable liveable place.