

Rat-run residents demand barriers in lorry ban zone

by JAMES WILLISHER

RESIDENTS claim their street is being used as a rat run by lorry drivers and that restrictions proposed by Hackney Council don't go far enough.

Up until Monday, Dalston, De Beauvoir, Hoxton and Shoreditch were the subject of a council consultation on a possible ban on lorries of more than 7.5 tonnes travelling through the area, to be enforced by fixed and mobile CCTV cameras.

The proposed zone runs from Old Street, Shoreditch, north along Kingsland Road to Balls Pond Road, Dalston, and extends as far west as New North Road, with an additional ban on using Regent's canal bridge in Haggerston.

However, residents in Culford Road, De Beauvoir, claim that several "no right turn" restrictions in Balls Pond Road and Kingsland Road force south-bound traffic on to their street and that a barrier is necessary to prevent this.

"Apart from suffering the



Suffering – from left to right, Culford Road residents Richard Frostick, Joan and John Ward and Susan Lacy

noise and pollution of heavy vehicles in a residential street of this conservation area, the fabric of our houses dates from the 1840s and should not be subject to the vibrations of this traffic," said Joan Ward.

"We see no reason why commonsense should await the outcome of a lengthy survey to confirm the nature of this problem.

"Additionally, we all have concerns for the safety of the

many primary school children who throng the northern section twice a day."

Fellow residents Susan Lacy and Christina Watson have asked the town hall for barriers to be installed and cite neighbouring Islington Council, which has altered its side of Southgate Road, De Beauvoir, to prevent such traffic as a good example.

"Unless there is effective physical prevention to stop lorries coming into the area, or effective enforcement, the worst offenders will continue to use the area to cut through to their journey's end," said Ms Lacy.

"This is yet again another piecemeal response to a larger problem."

A display of the proposed

zone in which lorries are banned was on show at Shoreditch library in Hoxton Street and the CLR James library in Dalston Lane throughout November and council officers were on hand at specific times to answer questions.

Cllr Alan Laing, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods, said the council was seeking residents' opinions over the proposed restrictions.

"For a number of years, residents have been requesting measures to be taken to remove unnecessary goods vehicle traffic from their roads," he said.

"Funding has now been secured to introduce restrictions on goods vehicles in certain areas to improve the environment."



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