

Beech Street Zero Emission Zone Barbican Association Proposal

Introduction

The Barbican Association (BA) supports the City's proposals to improve air quality throughout the Square Mile. The BA demonstrated this by supporting, in principle, the Beech Street ZEZ experiment. The BA has on previous occasions expressed its concerns about the lack of consultation before this project commenced and remains concerned that, since implementation, the issues it has raised have not been considered with sufficient speed or as objectively as we might have wished, but we recognise that we need to move forward collaboratively.

Current Issues

- **Validity of the experiment**

As an experiment this project was doomed from the start of the first lockdown, which occurred six days after the experiment began. Monitoring traffic flows and pollution levels is effectively impossible. The collection of meaningful data is the essence of an experiment; there is none and the experiment should have been postponed until normal traffic levels resume.

- **Access problems for residents**

It is nine months since implementation and residents of the Barbican and Golden Lane are still beset by problems of access to residents' homes both for residents and for the vehicles that service them. Concerns have been raised throughout this period with only some modification of signage.

- **Displaced traffic**

Residents report that significant amounts of traffic are being displaced along Fore Street and Moor Lane. This is not being monitored by the City. Residents are concerned that this displaced traffic will increase unabated after some sort of normality returns.

BA Proposals

The City of London Transport Strategy of May 2019 proposes a ZEZ for the whole of the area shown in blue on the map. The BA proposes that the City develops a scheme for this whole area with public consultation as soon as possible.

In the meantime, the BA supports the continuation of the experiment with a view to it becoming permanent, so long as all the monitoring data supports it, and once measures have been included to adequately ameliorate; (i) the current issues as above; (ii) other issues raised in the ongoing public consultation; and (iii) the four issues raised by the BA with the Officers and considered at the November Streets and Walkways Sub Committee, namely

- Two gaps in the Central reservation to allow access to Lauderdale Place forecourt and the Shakespeare House / Defoe House car park.
- Exemption from the ETO for local residents.
- Reopening the southern end of Golden Lane (in both directions) at the junction with Beech Street to zero emission vehicles.
- Creating a gap in the central reservation on Aldersgate Street to allow vehicles access to the Lauderdale Tower underground car park.

