

MY LIVEABLE LONDON

Ahead of the election, what do you need to know?



Van Gogh Walk in Stockwell, which was transformed as part of an initiative with Lambeth Council and local residents. Photo: Elaine Kramer

This is a short briefing by the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) and Living Streets (LS) on our 2018 election campaign, calling for the creation of a more Liveable London. It will cover what a Liveable London is, why it's important and how you can support it.

What is a Liveable London?

A Liveable London is a city where it's enjoyable and safe to walk and cycle for all your local trips, where there are relaxing places outside where you can watch the world go by or chat with your neighbours, and where children can safely roam and walk or cycle to school.

It's a London where our families, friends and communities are put first on our streets, and where motor traffic, pollution and congestion don't dominate our public spaces. A city where everyone can live well, breathe easy, walk and cycle safely and happily.



Orford Road is a completely different and enjoyable public space, created as part of the Waltham Forest Mini-Holland scheme

Why is a Liveable London important?

By creating areas where everyone can walk and cycle safely and happily, you make it easier for people to choose to leave the car at home, helping you to:

- **Make our air cleaner and safer.** Motor traffic is one of the biggest sources of air pollution in London, and given that current illegal levels of air pollution cause the premature death of over 9,000 people in London each year, and harms many more, enabling people to leave the car at home should be a priority.

- **Make residents healthier.** Currently, nearly half of adult Londoners don't do the minimum of 150 minutes of physical activity a week needed to stay healthy. By creating places where people can easily walk and cycle, you can help our community build activity into their day-to-day lives, reducing the huge personal toll on individuals, and the financial toll on the NHS of inactivity.



Creating streets that only have through routes for pedestrians and cyclists in Islington make the road pleasant for everyone

- **Get children moving.** Inactivity affects London's children to an even greater degree; 8 in 10 don't get 1 hour per day of physical activity – the minimum they need to stay healthy. Making it easier and safer for children to roam, and for them to walk or cycle to school is vital for their health. It also cuts motor traffic, reducing the number of 'school run' trips made by private vehicles on London's streets that are estimated to make up one-fifth of all rush hour traffic.
- **Build stronger communities.** The dominance of nearby fast busy roads cuts vulnerable people off from vital services, and 9 million people in the UK (almost a fifth of the population) say they are always or often lonely. By creating safe, quiet spaces that aren't intimidating and where people want to stop and chat to neighbours, we can start to break down the barriers that leave so many trapped behind their front doors.
- **Keep your borough moving.** London is growing, and to make sure the city doesn't grind to a halt, we need to actively promote and enable the most efficient ways of moving people around - walking, cycling and public transport. We also need to ensure that the popularity of apps such as Google maps and Waze don't turn our quiet, residential streets into choked-up rat runs.



Before and after of the A105 Green Lanes as part of the Enfield Mini-Holland scheme.

How do you create a Liveable London?

Creating these Liveable places are vital, and to help boroughs do this, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and Transport for London (TfL) have introduced the **Liveable Neighbourhood programme**. Every London council can apply for funding to create places where it's easier for people choose to walk and cycle, and where car use is reduced.

Councils can bid for up to £10 million to transform residential areas, town centres, transport interchanges and connecting routes. In the first round of bidding, seven boroughs won initial funding for their Liveable Neighbourhood bids, and are now working on modelling and feasibility studies in order to turn their bids into reality.

You can find more detail on the Liveable Neighbourhood programme, including TfL guidance on applying, here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/boroughs/liveable-neighbourhoods>

What are LCC and Living Streets asking for before the election?

LCC and Living Streets want to see councils taking full advantage of the Liveable Neighbourhood funding to transform London into a city where everyone can walk and cycle safely and happily.

That's why, in the run up to the local elections, our members and supporters will be asking the leader of the party in the borough (or the mayoral candidates, as appropriate) to commit to:

Submitting a high-quality and safe, Liveable Neighbourhood that takes major steps to prioritise people walking and cycling over private cars in the area during the course of your term.

NB: In Ealing, Greenwich, Hackney, Haringey, Havering, Lewisham, Waltham Forest, our members will be asking that the leader of your party or mayoral candidate 'Delivers a high-quality and safe' Liveable Neighbourhood, as they have already won funding in the first round in 2017.

Who are we?

The London Cycling Campaign strives to transform our city into a healthier, cleaner and happier place to live, where anyone who wants to cycle can do so safely and enjoyably. Living Streets is the UK charity that provides a voice for everyday walking in the UK. Together with the London Living Streets group, we are working ahead of the local elections to raise the voice of people wanting a safer and more enjoyable London.

Find out more

For more information on My Liveable London, or to register your support for the campaign, please get in touch with Fran Graham (fran@lcc.org.uk).

