



**St Marylebone Society  
Comments on the Proposals for Cycle Superhighway 11 (CS11)  
March 2016**

The St Marylebone Society supports CS11 for its long-term ambitions to improve air quality and make cycling safer for all.

The St Marylebone Society are Westminster City Council's statutory consultees for planning and environmental projects in Regents Park, however the society maintains an interest in the whole of what was the Borough of St Marylebone, extending south to Oxford Street and north to Boundary Road. In this consultation our special interest is how the proposals will affect Regents Park - a place we have been campaigning to protect since the society successfully saved the Nash Terraces from demolition in the 1950s.

The society have been pro-actively involved with pre-consultation discussions concerning CS11 for the past year as we believe it is essential to have an accurate and balanced understanding of any large scale urban project before commenting. We represent approximately 500 local residents and 50 corporate members and have debated the issues related to CS11 at our AGM and in our regular newsletters as follows:

**Pollution**

Improving the toxic pollution levels in Marylebone is urgently needed and CS11 is part of a wider strategy to improve air quality. Although motor traffic in Central London is declining, vehicle-generated pollution in Marylebone is still far above legal and safe limits. By providing safer cycle routes CS11 will encourage more people to cycle and this will prevent an expanding population creating a corresponding increase in car-use in Central London.

In Regents Park CS11 will improve the air quality by restricting the numbers of vehicles passing through the park. Traffic data shows that the majority of traffic is not going to the park but travelling through north to south at commuting times. The park is a vital 'green lung' for us all and this must be improved. The St Marylebone Society do not want through traffic using the Outer Circle as a rat-run; we want it to be cleaner and quieter.

**Gate Closure**

The St Marylebone Society supports gate closure as proposed. Only 4 gates are to be closed and only for part of the day (they are already closed at night). Regents Park residents will be still allowed access at all times. Park users can still drive into the park using the 4 open gates. This is a minor inconvenience to those who want or need to drive to the park.

## **Traffic Displacement**

We share local residents concerns about road changes having the potential to divert vehicles onto side streets, but believe traffic can be made to stay on the main roads and rat-runs eliminated by good road design and active traffic management.

We have spent time with WCC and TfL consultants learning how complex traffic modelling works and believe that the professionals working on our behalf, who have created the TfL strategic traffic model should be trusted; their expertise is globally acknowledged as being at the forefront of city traffic planning.

TfL has confirmed that it has factored the Baker St 2 Way scheme into its model and we will keep arguing for more detailed information on predicated traffic flows and vehicle counts. We understand that TfL have also agreed to include HS2 data in their modelling when it becomes available. We will lobby to ensure that when changes are made to the TfL strategic traffic model, any detrimental effects that come to light, such as increased traffic volumes and displacement, will be made public so that we can work together to find solutions.

## **Safety for Cyclists and Pedestrians**

Safer cycling and a safer environment for pedestrians is the core aim of CS11. Fewer vehicles on Avenue Road and in Regents Park Outer Circle will be much safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

All types of cyclists will be able to enjoy cycling in the park, commuters, sports, children and older people. The St Marylebone Society is proud that our hopeful paralympian hand-cyclists train here, as it is the only safe place for them to do so in Central London. The society have made links with 'Wheel for Wellbeing' to try to ensure the infrastructure changes brought about by CS11 in the Outer Circle make it a place where all cyclists can enjoy safe and unpolluted exercise.

CS11 currently proposes 4 raised tables at existing pedestrian crossings and whilst we recognise that these do change road users perception of the carriageway, they can cause pedestrians danger by creating ambiguity over right of way. Continuing the paved surface level across the road suggests to some pedestrians, especially children, that it is safe to cross at all times.

The society maintains that drivers and cyclists must to stop at the red light and pedestrians must stop on the red man if accidents are to be prevented. To achieve this all park users need to be educated to cooperate and respect each other. The Regents Park Cyclists have spent last year leafleting and campaigning on this issue with evident success.

If 4 raised tables are included in the final proposals we have been assured that these will not harm the heritage setting, will be cycle friendly and will not discriminate against hand-cyclists.

The St Marylebone Society supports a return to 20mph in the Outer Circle as we do throughout neighbourhoods in Marylebone but this must be enforced without street furniture, lighting, signs etc. harming the character and atmosphere of the park.

## **Conclusions**

CS11 has potential to bring many long-term positive benefits, especially to Regents Park and Central London; aims which we believe the majority of people support.

Perceived and real problems can be resolved by discussion, detail design and technical input to ensure that no one is adversely affected by traffic displacement.

We want to leave a tangible legacy for our children and grandchildren who will almost certainly become cyclists in Central London.

We want TfL, Westminster City Council and other stakeholders to commit to transparent on-going consultation on the CS11 project and work collaboratively towards a successful result for all.

Gaby Higgs – Chair St Marylebone Society  
Cynthia Poole - Chair of Planning St Marylebone Society