

# Help us reach a consensus, Councillor Williams

Southwark Council plans yet another ‘consultation’ on the Dulwich closures. Councillor Kieron Williams, the Leader of Southwark Council, has called for a “review process that brings people in Dulwich together”.

We agree. So here’s a checklist of actions we consider the review must include if it is to meet Cllr. Williams’ objective (and ours):

## Checklist:

- Appoint an independent, professionally qualified, resolution specialist
- Consult all residents, shops, businesses, GPs and schools in the wider Dulwich area including on ‘displacement routes’
- Produce independently verified, scientific data on traffic and pollution
- Give residents a vote
- Provide a real choice – 24/7 closures aren’t the only option
- Publish the results promptly and in full
- Act on the result!**

Southwark Council is about to announce yet another ‘consultation’ on the Dulwich closures, despite thousands of comments on its Streetspace Survey and objections from residents, shops, businesses and GP surgeries calling for modifications now.

Councillor Kieron Williams, the Leader of Southwark Council, has called for a “review process that brings people in Dulwich together” to “reach a consensus view”. We agree.

So here’s a checklist of actions we consider the review must include if it is to meet his objective and ours:

- Appoint a fully independent, professionally qualified, facilitator and resolution specialist to hold meetings, listen to different points of view, analyse the data and make recommendations** – community forums chaired by councillors who are not impartial or qualified to run them simply entrench polarised positions and increase cross-community division.
- Consult all residents, shops, businesses, GP surgeries and schools in the wider Dulwich area, including those affected by displaced traffic** – cutting the community into arbitrary areas, as in previous consultations, is divisive and fails to address the need for an area-wide solution.
- Produce comprehensive, independently verified, scientific data on traffic and pollution to aid decision-making** – not irrelevant, unvalidated or out-of-date studies relating to other locations.
- Give residents a vote** – count paper ballots, not just digital ones, and have the results independently verified.
- Give us a real choice – 24/7 closures aren’t the only option.**
- Publish the results promptly, fairly and in full** – unlike previous consultations.
- Act on the result** – it’s time to restore democracy and trust in local government.