

Response to Dulwich Alliance request for information from

Dulwich and West Norwood Conservative Party

30th June 2021

Dear Dulwich Alliance

Thank you for getting in touch and for your questions, which we have answered below.

1. Is your policy that your candidates should be supportive of the LTN measures currently in place in the Dulwich area? If so, please share any supporting rationale.

We are currently in the process of selecting candidates for all wards in Dulwich and West Norwood and creating a manifesto for the 2022 local elections, so I cannot point to named candidates or specific manifesto commitments on LTNs just yet. However, what I can say is that the vast majority of Conservative Party members in the area (the pool of members from which candidates will be selected) do not support the Dulwich LTN measures, nor similar measures in neighbouring areas. It is therefore our expectation that candidates will not be supportive of LTNs, and in taking this stance, they would be backed by party activists.

We have campaigned on the removal and consultation of LTNs in the Dulwich area over the past 12 months and have spoken to residents and businesses in the area to hear a range of views from people in the area.

During the recent Mayoral campaign, the Conservative Party candidate, Shaun Bailey, committed to hold public consultations with every community located near a TfL-funded LTN and remove the traffic measures if a majority of residents favour their removal. This approach is very much supported by local Conservative members. It also reflects how we have approached similar traffic schemes in the past - ensuring there is a proper consultation process for such changes.

2. If you are against the Dulwich LTNs, will your candidates explicitly communicate this as part of their campaign?

We are currently in the process of formulating our campaign strategy on a wide range of issues. We have spoken out against the LTNs in the past, and we will be campaigning to ensure that the widest possible measures will be taken on the consultation.

Conservative Councillor, Tim Briggs in Clapham Common, has spoken out against the LTNs in both Lambeth and Southwark in the past and has questioned the council on their utility. He has spoken at a public meeting in Brixton against the increase in pollution, congestion, and the lack of consultation of LTN implementation.

We do not have specific candidates in place currently. However, it is our expectation that candidates will call for proper consultation and communicate the desire of residents to whether the LTNs stay or go.

3. What would you like to see change, if anything? Do you have any thoughts or suggestions for a longer-term vision for travel, traffic and transport in the Dulwich area?

From the point of view of Dulwich and West Norwood Conservatives, we'd like to see proper consultation on LTNs and traffic schemes. Within such a process, the majority of Conservative Party members would express the view of wanting to see LTNs removed.

On transport and travel in the Dulwich area more generally, we do want to see a more joined up strategy. This should involve a focus on improving public transport, especially bus services, and accepting that there will always be a demand for car usage. In other London Boroughs (such as Conservative-run Wandsworth) there have been considerable efforts to help make electric car usage more realistic through creating publicly-accessible charging points, including on-street. There have also been efforts to work with car club schemes so that car-sharing (rather than ownership) becomes more viable. Local Councils need to move quickly on cars, because new petrol and diesel vehicles will be banned from sale by 2030.

4. What was your party's policy regarding LTNs in the recent London mayoral elections?

As mentioned above, the Conservative Party candidate, Shaun Bailey, committed to hold public consultations with every community located near a TfL-funded LTN and remove the traffic measures if a majority of residents favour the removal. Shaun, alongside Cllr Tim Briggs, spoke out against the unfair methods in which LTNs have been forced on communities throughout both Lambeth and Southwark.

Name of person responding to this request: Irene Kimm & Rolf Merchant.

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Position in party: Irene Kimm - Chair, Rolf Merchant - Deputy Chair, Political and Campaigning.

Name of party: Conservative Party.