

BELGRAVIA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Terence Bendixson OBE

To Neighbourhood, Planning: WCC

Blue category

 Follow up. Start by 02 August 2023. Due by 02 August 2023.



Wed 02/08/2023 13:22

Madam or Sir,

May I make the following observations on the Belgravia Plan?

1. Clause 5.11 Hyde Park Corner/Constitution Hill. (Non Policy Action 6. Monument Saturation Zone.)

The Plan rightly seeks to protect the memorial role of Hyde Park Corner but omits to say anything about its domination by traffic. Hyde Park Corner is an obsolete 1960s traffic dominated square and a serious barrier for pedestrians going east-west and south-east to north-west. Trafalgar Square, once also a roundabout, has been updated to reconnect the National Gallery to its frontage. May I urge you to include in The Belgravia Plan a proposal along the same lines for Hyde Park Corner. The aim should be connect Apsley House (not in the plan) to the important memorials in the square in front of it and, to some extent, reduce the exhaust pollutants which, according to Dr. Olivia Fryman, the Curator, are damaging the priceless contents of Wellington's house.

You will be aware that the Mayfair Forum is about to commission consultants to redesign Park Lane Southbound as a cafe-lined promenade from Marble Arch to the Corner. This strengthens the case for action at Hyde Park Corner.

2. Clause 7.5 Traffic Flows (Non Policy Action 11 Traffic)

May I warmly support the Plan's proposals to reduce through traffic in all parts of Belgravia? Reduction is badly needed.

May I also urge you to examine the case for transforming Belgrave Square along the lines of Hanover Square? There is a strong case for restoring two way traffic flows, widening the pavements adjacent to the central garden and to the surrounding houses, planting trees in the carriageway adjacent to the houses and generally expanding space for people plus trees while reducing it for vehicles. Many designs are possible but the overarching objective should be to reduce traffic domination.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Terence Bendixson OBE, President Emeritus, Living Streets

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