

Leave our streets alone Southville residents say “NO”



Dear neighbour, you may well be wondering what the roadblock fuss is all about?

Bristol City Council and The West of England Combined Authority (WECA), have allocated **£12.5 million** from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for implementing the broader **Low Traffic/Liveable Neighbourhoods** programme across Bristol.



Southville is being targeted for the next LTN (low traffic neighbourhood) which essentially means the roads in this area will be **carved up into segregated zones**. Under this imposed traffic-calming scheme, locals will no longer be able to *drive directly across to a different zone* in order to reach a zone outside of their own. Instead, they will be forced onto busy boundary roads, travelling much longer distances and significantly increasing their journey times — adding to congestion, fuel consumption, and overall environmental impact. **At the time of writing, over 2000 local residents, business owners and visitors have signed a petition objecting to the zoning proposals and in particular, questioning the need for driving restrictions in an area already considered safe, quiet, bike-friendly and with few traffic issues. They argue these changes will cause unnecessary disruption and harm to community cohesion.**

For example, under the new LTN scheme, a journey that normally takes 5 minutes (say, driving from Stackpool Road to Aldi) could easily stretch to 30 minutes or more. These changes will particularly affect and isolate the elderly who depend on their cars (*often not ULEZ compliant*) to stay independent and connected to family, shops and services. Enforced roadblocks, bus gates and lengthy detours will also impact care workers and especially busy working parents juggling the school run — who may at times need to coordinate dropping off or picking up children from three different zones — only adding to the logistical nightmare of managing such extended and complex journeys during working hours.

As Chrissie from Osborne Road shared — **“I am a local care worker and I pick-up a severely disabled lady three times a week. I have to use my car to take her to appointments. The current journey from my house to hers is 1 minute. With the LTN changes, I’ll no longer be able to drive straight down my road and will instead be forced to take a convoluted 1.5-mile detour to reach her. I’ve calculated that I’ll have to spend an additional 100 hours a year behind the wheel — which is completely unnecessary. I can’t be the only one affected. This is not green and it’s certainly not sustainable.”**

Many local businesses will be affected — whether it’s reaching local homes, receiving customers, coordinating deliveries, or simply allowing customers to pick up heavy or large orders with ease, **local business owners fear the proposed changes could force them to relocate or close altogether. This directly puts the local economy at risk.** Imposed roadblocks, bus gates and lengthy diversions will also negatively impact local and out-of-area tradespeople — scaffolders, builders, cleaners, plumbers and community care givers as well as shuttle services — **who all rely on unrestricted, easy road access to reach their clients, carry out their work, and serve the community.** Any road closures would hinder their ability to do so and would only increase traffic congestion onto the designated routes **that are not equipped to handle such artificially-concentrated traffic flows such as North St and Coronation Road.**

These changes WILL affect YOU



The fact of the matter is, the South Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood scheme will create more problems than it claims to solve: LTN road restrictions won't bring traffic calming; instead, they'll simply displace congestion and pollution onto one-way residential streets and busy boundary roads where those unfortunate to live and work along them will suffer increased noise, heavier traffic and worsening air quality. **Taxi fares are likely to double or even triple** as cab drivers will be forced to navigate lengthy, circuitous routes that will add significant time and mileage — only increasing their operating costs.

“What an appalling proposal and waste of public money – when our roads are falling apart, there’s rubbish everywhere, our schools desperately need supplies and we have to wait weeks to see a doctor. This is not just a waste of money – it is an insult to our community’s real needs.” – Mike, Birch Road.

The Low Traffic Neighbourhood changes will affect everyone

Have you considered how these changes will affect you and your daily commute — and equally, how they might make it harder for friends, relatives, and caregivers to visit or support you?

“This plan will isolate and cut people off from accessing local services. Why spend all this money destroying the heart and soul of this area when those resources could be used to improve facilities like our local parks and Dean Lane swimming pool and build more essential services such as doctors’ surgeries, nurseries, libraries, improved bus routes and services, youth clubs and indoor recreation centres that benefit everyone.” – Anna, Beaufrey Road.

As you can appreciate, many BS3 residents oppose the SBLN/LTN plans which threaten to disrupt daily life, harm local businesses, and create unnecessary, artificially-induced traffic chaos throughout our community. As Richard from Hamilton Road said — **“Why try to break what isn’t broken?”**

If you share these or similar concerns and wish to protect the community, please take a moment to discuss this letter with a neighbour or local business owner, fill in the council SBLN survey and sign the local **‘Stop the Southville Roadblocks’** petition. You can also contact your local councillors, your MP and the WECA Mayor, Helen Godwin at: mayor@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

Let’s keep Southville the **happy, vibrant, thriving and liveable neighbourhood** it already is.

Thank you for your support. The SBLN Southville Concerns Group

Council SBLN Consultation Survey
(Deadline 30th October)



www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/sblnconsultation2025

‘Stop Southville Roadblocks’ petition



www.change.org/Stop_Southville_Roadblocks