

Old London Road: Pollution and Associated Problems

These notes summarise the responses of Old London Road residents consulted informally about pollution and associated problems in October 2017.

Responses are listed in order of household, west to east, i.e. moving downhill from near the Triangle Nursing Home, past the Holton turn, and ending near the back entrance to Jordell's garage – a total distance of more than a quarter of a mile.

Respondents are not identified by name or house number.

- Because of traffic noise and smell, during the summer tend to stay at the back of the house with front windows closed.
- Aware of heavy traffic, smell and dust. Dangers created by cars parked, often illegally on corners. Serious concern over pollution threat from badly maintained drainage and blocked grids.
- Heavy traffic (industrial and agricultural) causing vibration and forcing front windows to be kept closed. Cases of loads being shed (straw and sand). Illegal car parking can make entering/leaving premises dangerous.
- Heavy traffic, leaving diesel smells and has caused cracks in window frames, leading to deterioration in quality of life. Query whether satnavs are misdirecting HGVs, especially foreign ones. Blocked grids are a concern -- have in the past experienced sewage flooding from the nursing home.
- Aware of heavy traffic, and note that wooden barriers on the corner of Holton turn are often knocked down. Think pollution may accumulate at the bottom of slope down to the watercourse. Tend to leave windows closed at front.
- Traffic smell particularly (one respondent is asthmatic). Heavy traffic, dangerous on narrow road with much illegal parking, which also makes access to premises hazardous. Concern over state of grids and drainage.
- No major concerns.
- Heavy traffic.

We would add that further factors contributing to pollution and other hazards in Old London Road include:

1. The road is too narrow to safely accommodate the volume and dimensions of the heavy traffic that uses it.

2. It is badly maintained, with rough edges east of Holton turn, and yellow lines obliterated by surface repairs.
3. Permitted on-street car parking dangerously limits drivers' visibility on the curve west of Holton turn, and during university semesters there is heavy illegal parking along the whole stretch, which is rarely policed.
4. There is no pavement and little street lighting east of Holton turn, putting pedestrians at risk, especially at night.
5. Blocked grids and the lack of proper guttering cause streams of water down the road in any rainfall.

Anne and Gregory Walker
22 Old London Road

3rd November 2017

WNP Chairman's Note

This research followed WNP Public Consultation Open Day, 17 June 2017, when Nos 24 and 25 of 55 *proforma* responses received reported 'traffic pollution'.

No 24. 'I live in OLR above fire station. At the moment, due to parked cars on double yell lines, when buses and very large vehicles pass the house, the house shakes. This has ponly happened in the lats two years. What will happen when all the building development starts and even more large vehicles go up and down the road !!'

No 25 [OX33 1YW] 'Traffic pollution measurement must take accoiunt of difference between ground level and 1st floor (or higher) readings. We have noticed increase in smell over past year.'

It would not have been ethical to try to trace writers who did not sign their complaint. However, by coincidence a friend on OLR told WNP Chairman she knew them as friends. She offered to follow through to see if the two would expand on these perceived problems. The above findgins are the result.

It should be noted further that northerly winds amplify the volume of traffic noise – engines at speed and tyre friction - from both A40 dual carriageway and the M40 beyond it. The same noise in summertime can make sitting in gardens just below the A40 an unpleasant experience.

John Fox WNP Chairman