

Press Release for Liveable Neighbourhoods

Subject line: Liveable Neighbourhoods for Bristol launches citywide campaign

Embargoed until: Wednesday 12 August, 5:00 am

Liveable Neighbourhoods for Bristol launches citywide campaign

A group of Bristol organisations has published an open letter to the city council, asking it to work with local people to create 'Liveable Neighbourhoods' across Bristol by May 2024, starting now.

Liveable Neighbourhoods are residential neighbourhoods that contain traffic filters such as bollards or planters at strategic locations. The filters stop cars, vans and lorries from the bordering main roads using the streets as rat-runs.

Residents and local businesses still have full access and can get deliveries, but the only way to pass from one main road to another is on foot or by bike.

A spokesperson for the group said:

'During the lockdown, people in Bristol have experienced low traffic and clean air where they live, and they want to keep them. By reducing traffic, Liveable Neighbourhoods can deliver those things and more. The benefits include easier social distancing, safer roads, safe spaces for children to play, room for outdoor seating for businesses, and more footfall and trade on local high streets. Liveable Neighbourhoods even increase residents' life expectancy. In Liveable Neighbourhoods, the streets are for locals, not through-traffic.'

The Liveable Neighbourhoods for Bristol campaign is already supported by over 20 groups, including the Bristol Civic Society, Bristol Cycling Campaign and the Bristol Walking Alliance.

There are 19 Liveable Neighbourhood Facebook groups, with one for each part of Bristol, and they can be found via the campaign's website at liveablebristol.org.uk. There is also a petition, which can also be found via the website.

The group's spokesperson said:

'We're kickstarting the conversation on Liveable Neighbourhoods and giving people ways to show their support for them and discuss what they'd want in their local area. This is what will persuade the council, and we hope that everyone will join in.'

ENDS

Contact

For media enquiries, please contact Alex Stephenson at alexstephenson1991@gmail.com, or on 07925 883319.

Or email us on hello@liveablebristol.org.uk.

A spokesperson is available for broadcast interview.

Notes

The open letter is as follows:

An open letter to Mayor Marvin Rees and the councillors of Bristol City from Liveable Neighbourhoods for Bristol

We are writing as a network of Bristol organisations to ask you to work with local people to create Liveable Neighbourhoods across the city, starting now and completing by the end of the next mayoral and council term in May 2024.

As you will know, Liveable Neighbourhoods are residential areas that contain traffic filters to stop cars, vans and lorries using the streets as rat-runs. Residents can still drive to their homes, residents and businesses can still get deliveries, and pedestrians and bikes can get through freely.

In Liveable Neighbourhoods, the resulting reduced traffic has many benefits. Air quality improves. So does road safety. Social distancing is easier. There is safe space for play areas for children, and room for outdoor seating for businesses. Tree-planting and landscaping can be done, making the streets greener and more pleasant.

Residents' life expectancy improves because the air is cleaner and they walk and cycle more. High streets in Liveable Neighbourhoods become attractive destinations where people want to spend their time again and again, and so footfall and trade increase.

As well as these benefits for citizens, Liveable Neighbourhoods would help the council meet its One City plans for a healthy and sustainable city, including its goal for a carbon-neutral Bristol by 2030.

We are encouraged by the [statement](#) by Councillor Kye Dudd, Cabinet Member for Transport, that the council will be bringing forward initial proposals for liveable streets with less traffic on local roads as soon as possible, and that it will be keen to engage with communities.

To this end, Liveable Neighbourhood Facebook groups have been set up in each local area in Bristol, and we invite you – the mayor and current councillors – as well as prospective councillors, to join the discussion in your local groups.

We have also started a [petition](#) that people in Bristol can sign to ask for Liveable Neighbourhoods to show their support for this policy. More information, and signposting to local Liveable Neighbourhood Facebook groups, can be found on our [website](#).

The extraordinary circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic present a perhaps once-in-a-generation opportunity to build back better. We hope that we can help each other to do this.

We look forward to your response.

Signatories as at the time of writing

Bristol Civic Society
Bristol Cycling Campaign
Bristol Dementia Action Alliance
Bristol Older People's Forum
Bristol Ramblers
Bristol Sight Loss Council
Bristol Walking Alliance
Bristol Youth Strike 4 Climate
Christian Climate Action Bristol
Future Economy Network
Landscape Institute South West
Living Heart for Bristol
Playing Out
Transport for Greater Bristol
Zero West
Bishopston and St Andrews Traffic and Parking Group (BOSA)
Bishopston, Cotham & Redland Community Partnership
Clifton Climate Action
Cycle Sunday
East Bristol Kidical Mass
Let's Walk Bedminster
Totterdown Residents Environmental and Social Action (TRESA)