**STOP THE DESTRUCTION OF NEW RIVER PATH BY LBH - URGENT ACTION NEEDED**

30 September 2023

Asphalt is being used to relay the New River path from the Castle to the children's play area. It will make the path look ugly and destroy the biodiversity of the path and environment.

What was a beautiful path for walking on, is being turned into a hazardous cycle path.

LBH is breaching the Equality Act by making it too dangerous for older people, disabled people and children to walk on.  Speeding bikes are a terrible hazard for people with these protected characteristics.

The path is not wide enough for walkers and for bikes. Making it wider and covering with asphalt just kills of the wildlife and destroys biodiversity.

Non-asphalt paths need slightly more maintenance than asphalt paths, but are transformative in relation to the quality of the environment and biodiversity.

The new path from Seven Sisters Road to Finsbury Park, laid by Thames Water is a great example of best practice.

**LBH please reconsider your design approach and follows Thames Water's best practice.    TW and the LWT have re-laid their paths so beautifully. Why not follow their outstanding example of best practice.**

See email below from expert Dr Judit Kimpian to Catherine Hay, Project Manager, Public Realm, Climate, Homes & Economy Directorate, Borough of Hackney

Malcolm Alexander

New River Renewal Campaign

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**Dear Catherine,**

**This is an extremely worrying development and entirely contrary to the London Plan’s requirement for LAs to ensure works on public land are biodiversity positive.**

**As the chair of our local residents’ association, and as a governor of a nearby Hackney school, I very much support Malcom’s points.**

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**he New River Path is part of our local heritage and a key source of health and well-being for young families, families with neurodiverse children and adults, as well as disabled people.**

**As a keen cyclist and cycling campaigner I can testify that asphalting this path would legitimise fast cycle traffic, putting other users at a disadvantage and risk. This measure would also be in direct contravention of the government’s advice that pedestrians should enjoy priority on all public paths.**

**As an architect, and sustainable policy expert I can confirm that the path is not wide enough to be shared between fast moving cycle traffic and pedestrians - unless significant loss of biodiversity is planned along the way.**

**We will make further representations at all possible forums to ensure that any plans going forward are in compliance with the London Plan, as well as Hackney Council’s walking and cycling action plan.**

**Regards,**

**Dr Judit Kimpian**

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Catherine Hay, Project Manager, Public Realm, Climate, Homes & Economy Directorate, Borough of Hackney