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Enfield, Edmonton, Haringey, Palmers Green, Southgate, Tottenham, Winchmore Hill &

## Protest as play area fenced off

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# Council faces traffic challenge

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ENFIELD Council could face legal action over how it asked the public about a traffic-reduction scheme.

A group of residents and businesses claims the consultation on the Fox Lane low-traffic neighbourhood (LTN) scheme was flawed because a key document was published late – and accused the council of trying to mislead the public.

The group, One Community Against Fox Lane LTN, has threatened to mount a legal challenge if the scheme is made permanent.

LTNs involve closing residential streets to through-traffic to cut rat-running, boost air quality, and encourage walking and cycling.

But some residents complain of longer journey times, increased pollution on surrounding roads and possible delays to the emergency services.

The Fox Lane LTN trial, officially called Fox Lane Quieter Neighbourhood, includes an area



Traffic in Alderman's Hill on the edge of the Fox Lane LTN

between Southgate and Palmers Green. A consultation on the trial ended on Sunday.

One Community claims that when the council published an experimental traffic order last August, it did not give a statement of reasons until two months later.

When the council finally did so, the group claimed it did not pub-

lish a notification of the amendment and accused the local authority of trying to mislead people into believing the statement had been available from the start of the trial.

One Community claims it is a legal requirement to keep the statement of reasons available throughout the whole experimental period. The group has submitted a formal letter of objection against the Fox Lane traffic orders being made permanent, which it says is the precursor to a legal challenge.

An Enfield Council spokesperson said: "The council can confirm that it has received an objection letter from the One Community group. A formal decision report for the Fox Lane Quieter Neighbourhood will be produced once the consultation closes and other monitoring data is reviewed and analysed. This report will provide a response to any objections raised."

The council has been collecting a range of data, including traffic

speed and volume, air quality and cycling counts, which will be used to judge the success of the Fox Lane trial.

Meanwhile, a consultation on a similar LTN scheme in Bowes – called Bowes Primary Area Quieter Neighbourhood – will continue so more traffic data can be collected.

During a cabinet meeting in June, councillors noted a "serious impact from the lockdowns" affected travel patterns. The extension will allow the council to collect traffic data that is more representative of normal conditions.

With neighbouring Haringey also rolling out LTNs, Enfield Council has suggested it could draw up an alternative design for the Bowes scheme that could provide "a more optimal solution" for both boroughs.

Findings published with last month's cabinet papers reveal most residents remain unconvinced. Only a quarter (26 per cent) thought the impact of the scheme had been positive.