

**BLOOMSBURY RESIDENTS' ACTION GROUP  
PROOF OF EVIDENCE 5**

**Accident information and cycling safety**

**STATEMENT**

**by TREVOR SHONFELD - LOCAL CYCLIST**

1. I am a daily cyclist and resident of Judd St WC1. I enjoy cycling and use my cycle for local journeys, to Paddington Station (for onward travel by train), to my work and at weekends for pleasure rides outside of London. I like to think that I am a moderate and enthusiastic cyclist. In the past I frequently used the cycle way along Tavistock Place both for westbound and eastbound journeys during the rush hour periods and at other times.
2. In November 2015, as part of an ETO and without consultation, Camden Council made various changes to the cycling provisions along Tavistock Place including the dividing of the cycle way into separate and wider east bound and westbound tracks. The overall width has increased such that the individual east/west bound cycle ways are each about the same width of the original bi-directional cycle pathway. I first thought this was a good improvement for cyclists but not now. It has turned a safe and convenient local cycle route into desperate rush hour raceway which has attracted a number of 'devil dare cyclists' An outcome both tragic and often commented on in other parts of London.
3. The thoughtless ETO layout has attracted 'high speed' cyclists who cycle 'fast and furious' in a manner that is inconsiderate of other cyclists – and other road users be they pedestrians or drivers., This is not a race track or the open' road'. It is a local access route for residents, local businesses and urban commuters.
4. In the last year, I have seen numerous near misses as fast cyclists force their way along the cycle track. I have frequently felt unsafe on the new tracks and know, from passing comments, that many other track users feel likewise. Last month I found myself the victim of an incident when two 'speedsters' were obviously out to 'beat the lights' and forced me off the track space into the vehicle pathway – fortunately no vehicles were closeby. Aggressive cycling seems to be something that the Council and Camden Cycling ignore by their passivity towards the matter.
5. I, along with some other neighbors, now find cycling eastbound along Bernard Street and westbound along Leigh Street, and dog-legging via Marchmont, Herbrand and Guilford Streets along common shared use roads safer than risking the wrath of 'death ride cyclists ' who have been attracted to the wider race tracks introduced as part of this thoughtless trial.
6. That common roadway is the safer option compared to using a dedicated cycle track is ridiculous. The sooner this is rectified the better! Narrower lanes are more than sufficient, safer and better for a route that is little used except on peak hour weekdays. Narrower lanes are no attraction for the 'racers' and makes cycling in this neighborhood safer and the sensible choice.