

Malcolm Baldwin statement at Cabinet on 20 May 2021

I just this evening would like to make a few comments in respect of the Council's approach to "Low Traffic Neighbourhoods" (LTNs).....I emphasise not criticisms, merely comments.

LTNs have created concerns for some but certainly aspirations for many, both for individuals and for a number of residents associations of which CARA my own association is one.

LTNs and their effective implementation will be a reflection of the positive aspirations for a cleaner, healthier and more economically energised city, for businesses and residents alike! Sensitively implemented and effectively monitored, the mandate you have and the enthusiasm you have created amongst many should now not be wasted.

In launching the prospect of LTNs, you have certainly created considerable enthusiasm and aspirations. My message tonight to a newly restructured Cabinet is: let's, please, get on with it, albeit within the 'constraints' of normal consultation processes.

You have the mandatedon't let others convince you otherwise and stay consistent to the 'narrative'!

A number of RAs, enthused by the aims and content of your "Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy" have invested much time, thought and effort into their LTN proposalslet's not let it be wasted!

Using CARA, my own RA as an example, we consulted approximately 960 households within our catchment area and did so on a detailed basis, with a result of circa 80% being in favour of our concept. We gained support from a number of neighbouring residents associations and yes some concerns expressed from others concerns that are probably reflected in respect of all other LTN proposals for our city.

A number of LTN proposals, I suspect, can add real value to our city. Again, but only as an example, CARA's LTN concept represents 'low hanging fruit' with the enhancements it would bring to a key heritage location and the economic benefits attached to that for our city and local businesses.

A less well recognised social and 'housing' diversity across our catchment area would also be much enhanced by our LTN concept and has much support across our household profile. This is emphatically not the so-called 'posh' end of town - it is socially diverse - worthy of attention!

Our city needs one or two 'inaugural' LTNs, one perhaps simple and one more complex, to validate the strategy and add maximum valuesocially, economically and environmentally.

The Low Traffic Neighbourhood 'genie' is well and truly out of the bottle you've more than whetted our appetites you have raised our aspirations for our city! Great! Fantastic! Now let's act on that vision. Don't get wobbly! Let's all be brave! Try to satisfy everyone and you risk satisfying no one! After all, as residents or as politicians if we were given necks, we were surely meant to stick them out occasionally.

Malcolm Baldwin.