

Dear Mr Rahman

Your 2022 manifesto contained noble and important pledges about listening properly, without pre-determination, and following good practice when running consultations. So it's disappointing to not see these principles applied to another key manifesto commitment around safer streets.

It's nearly a year since you were elected Mayor of Tower Hamlets and you have now twice run consultations on the "Liveable Streets" schemes. Before making a decision, currently slated for 26 April, please take stock of your approach to "reopening the roads".

You and your councillors keep saying that your manifesto pledges give you a mandate to "reopen the roads". While you certainly have a mandate to develop and pursue proposals, your pledge for removal has now been undermined, because it was based on mistaken premises and information.

Taken together, your manifesto pledges give you no mandate for ripping out the current street layouts in Old Bethnal Green Road, Weavers and Brick Lane.

- You pledged to listen and work together with the community, but you haven't engaged with the huge number of residents and interested parties, including schools, TfL, Barts Health Trust and the Met Police, who have objected to removing the current street layouts.
- You said consultations wouldn't just be a 'rubber stamp' for decisions that were already made, but all your rhetoric and information published on Liveable Streets has been extremely one-sided. When your first consultation showed majority support for keeping the new street layouts, you could have reconsidered your plans based on what you had heard from residents. Instead you chose to run another consultation at a huge cost to local residents.

Your administration's approach to consultation is terribly flawed. It is not designed to fairly canvass the views of all residents, communities and interested parties.

- You pledged to run "fair and worthwhile" consultations, but instead they have come with misleading information or none at all, and their time frames have been too short.
- Your Liveable Streets consultations have been run with no warning, no in-person events, highly confusing documents, undelivered consultation packs and use of 'unique survey reference numbers' in a way that discounted hundreds of local residents' responses from the headline presentation of survey results.

Please find attached a document in which we quote your manifesto and then demonstrate the ways the consultation process falls far short of your own election pledges. We also outline what you can do to put this right.

We hope that you will reconsider your approach, demonstrating that you have not pre-determined the position and you give equal weight to all parts of your manifesto and truly act as a Mayor that listens to people's real experiences.

Save Our Safer Streets

Co-signed by London Cycling Campaign, Oaklands School, Tower Hamlets Wheelers and over 400 locals.

This letter and accompanying report were sent to the Tower Hamlets mayor and council on 17 April 2023.