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Sent: 31 March 2021 07:00
To: healthy.school.streets; Planning; tulip.siddiq.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: Healthy street request - Holmes road nw5 2020/5913/P

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To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter to request that Holmes Road, in Kentish Town, NW5 be made into a Healthy School Street in Camden.

Holmes Road, just off of Kentish Town Road, spans only 400 meters, and has two large schools at either end of the street. The first school, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, has around 250 students from the ages of three to eleven years old. The second larger school, College Francais Bilingue de Londres (CFBL), has around 700 students from the ages of three to fifteen years old. Due to the age range of students at both schools - the road has a constant stream of children, parents and teachers, due to the staggered school times for classes. We are unaware of any road in Kentish Town that has two large schools in such close proximity, making the street a perfect candidate for a Healthy School Street. The street is currently heavily congested with suspected high levels of pollution considering its high proximity to high traffic roads such as Kentish Town Road.

We would also like to raise the urgency of getting this approved due to the recent planning permission submitted to Camden Council to change a neighbouring building (3-6 Spring Place - directly opposite the CFBL) to a high volume 24/7 delivery depot. The planning application number is 2020/5913/P and was submitted by the property group Segro. This planning application has already had numerous objections from local residents, the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum, and the Inkerman Area Residents Association, due to the increased traffic and pollution that will endanger both residents and students. The street already has a high-volume of traffic due to the Camden Vehicle Depot and the Kentish Town Police Station, and any additional traffic is dangerous and unwelcome. The planning application details using Holmes Road as the primarily route for local 24/7 delivery trucks.

While the application has some concessions around shifting traffic volume at peak school hours - this does not go far enough to ensure the safety of residents and children, particularly considering the staggered school hours. The applicant anyway plans to let the premises to third parties which will also possibly hire self-employed drivers for operations. This means that any promises made in the application may not in fact be implemented or enforced to a level satisfactory to protect children and their families on that road, in any event.

We implore Camden Council to reject the planning application and transform Holmes Road into a Healthy School Street. We hope that the needs of Camden residents and their families comes before the needs of large businesses like Segro. While we understand the increasing need for logistics companies during the pandemic – we hope that the pandemic will have ended by the end of the year, and a longer term focus should more appropriately lead to a decision in favour of protecting our children. We are sure that other more appropriate locations than next to primary schools and in the middle of residential areas can be identified by Segro instead.

I have also copied in the Camden Planning Office and our local MP to make them aware of this request.

Kind regards
Simone Girson Newton