

# **BLOOMSBURY RESIDENTS' ACTION GROUP**

## **PROOF OF EVIDENCE 10**

### **Practical problems caused for local businesses and residents**

#### **STATEMENT**

**by FIONA DEALEY**

**Costume Designer, who runs her own business**

- a) As a Costume Designer I have to buy (from the West End) & hire large quantities of clothes and transport them to fittings to various production companies that are based in and around Soho. Please see photo of the amount of clothes that I have to transport around. I obviously cannot do this using public transport nor on a bicycle.



*b) Photo showing goods to be transported*

- c) Previously my commute in my car from Wicklow Street to Cavendish Square car park along Tavistock and Torrington Place would take me 15 minutes. Now because of the one way system the same journey, now along the periphery of the congestion charge route of Gray's Inn Road/ Euston Road the journey now takes up to an hour. I pay the residents discount congestion charge and now have to sit in gridlocked traffic with all the other drivers who either don't need to or don't want to pay the congestion charge. All sitting on the Euston Road creating even more pollution.
- d) Where is the sense in that?
- e) I work long hours up to 12 hours a day and now have the added stress of an extra hour, either way, in my commute. Many times the stress of the drive has brought on migraines. I am a freelance worker and if due to a migraine I'm unable to work I lose out financially. Therefore seriously affecting my work.
- f) No one at TFL or Camden has taken into account the very serious gridlock that the new one way system have created on the area of King's Cross Road / Swinton Street / Gray's Inn Road. An already heavily congested area which is now creating even heavier pollution in this neighbourhood. I live in Wicklow Street and I've been told that the air pollution is now better in a very small section of Tavistock and Torrington Place. Really ? So what exactly are TFL and Camden doing as they seem totally ignorant to how this isn't solving air pollution it's simply diverting heavier loads of traffic to different streets in the area, yet I imagine they're not testing the air in those areas that are now greatly affected.
- g) The map of the Tavistock Place / Torrington Place that Camden and TFL were using conveniently doesn't extend to the outer area of Gray's Inn Road or Euston Road. If my car is parked on Swinton Street it has often taken me over half an hour to get to the lights at the top of Gray's Inn Road....a distance you could walk in less than five minutes. However if I'm transporting large quantities of clothes to a fitting in the West End walking / public transport is not an option. Nor is a black cab as the fares have increased due to the traffic congestion.
- h) This one-way system has caused great devastation to those of us who live and work here yet TFL and Camden Council just don't care and seem more concerned about creating a Bloomsbury Student Campus which is all about the 'safe' freedom of movement for the young and able bodied whilst ignoring the needs of the local residents who actually live here and pay Council Tax. Why don't local residents opinions matter ? The lanes are only used during the rush hour traffic and then during the rest of the day are virtually empty.
- i) Not everyone has a nine to five job in an office where they have the luxury of choosing how they commute to work. Many of us NEED to use a car.
- j) I just don't feel that TFL or Camden Council are listening to me nor any of the local residents. We don't want this proposal to be made permanent. There has to be a better solution.