

Hackney Environment News



Free Newsletter of Hackney Environment Forum

Spring 2003 No. 28

Congestion charge.. Good for London & Hackney

London's Congestion Charging Zone continues to be popular with a majority of Londoners.

We think it will be a success with a noticeable drop in unnecessary journeys by cars through Hackney and into central London. It may take several months to settle in but Hackney and London will be the better for it. Hackney people living in inner London are paying the environmental and social costs of car-driving commuters who are just passing through our neighbourhoods.

Majority of cars- from outside

Research has revealed that in Hackney the majority of rush hour traffic comes from outside the borough.

It might seem a bit NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) to complain, but actually this charge on car commuters is dealing with an injustice from which many people in inner London have suffered for decades. Local people have had to pick up the tab in terms of polluted streets, accidents and respiratory problems.

This congestion charging will mostly hit these drivers who commute into central London via inner London's crowded road network.

Polluter pays...

HEF believes in the *polluter pays* principle, which means that drivers should pay for the human impacts which their behaviour imposes on our environment and quality of life. If congestion charging does succeed in reducing traffic by 10-15%, then it should be rolled out across Inner London as quickly as possible.

Hackney Environment Forum....

Working with partners for a better Hackney

Over the past few months, HEF, with eco-ACTIVE, set up Environment Question Times.

The meetings have brought together people with common interests to exchange information and work together on practical policies and projects. Topics to date have included pollution and air quality, food, transport and greening open spaces.

The last three meetings have been attended by Councillor Vincent Stops, Hackney Council Cabinet member who covers Transport, Planning and Environment. By working with Councillor Stops we hope to maintain a high profile for environmental issues.

We recognise that other pressures often mean that environment issues are allowed to slip down the agenda. But the root cause of many social and economic problems is a poor environment and rather than being in tension between environment and other issues a good environment can support and lead regeneration by making Hackney a place where businesses want to set up and people want to live.

HEF/ Eco-ACTIVE Public Forum

'Re-vitalising local economies and neighbourhood shops'

Tuesday April 29th 2003 7.30pm -9.30pm
Rhodes Estate Tenants Hall, Laurel St, off Dalston Lane E8
(3 minutes walk east of CLR James Public Library, southside)

Invited speakers from the:

New Economics Foundation, Chatsworth Rd Market
Campaign, Hackney LETS, Hackney Council

All welcome Free admission Displays Refreshments

HEF PUBLIC MEETINGS

A series of Public forums will take place from Spring 2003 covering current issues such as the London Plan, energy conservation, traffic and transport etc. We plan the first one for April 2003 and then bi-monthly through 2003.