

Champion Hill – Quietway 7 – Southwark Cyclists comments

Southwark Cyclists believe that there is too much motor traffic, travelling too fast, on Champion Hill.

The combination of parking and pinch points on the southern arm (with Denmark Hill) require very careful positioning for cyclists to avoid dooring and close passes. Drivers using this road as a short-cut are frequently aggressive towards cyclists who adopt a central road position for their own safety, because there is not enough space for overtaking. This is not an inviting road for anybody, but is particularly forbidding to new cyclists, anyone cycling with children, or anyone with a heavily laden cycle; all of whom should be comfortable on the Quietway.

We strongly support a road closure on Champion Hill at the junction with Dog Kennel Hill. This section of the Quietway route will not be successful without a substantial reduction in motor traffic, particularly drivers in a hurry using this route as a short-cut. The majority of households in the area do not own cars, and would benefit from a reduction of motor traffic on this street.

More local residents support this closure than oppose it. However, if the minority opposition is considered too strong for an immediate permanent closure, we suggest that the closure is implemented on a trial basis for a minimum of 6 months. If there is a trial, then it must be maintained for the entire length proposed, as vocal opposition frequently dies down once people have got used to it, and found alternative routes.

The timing of the traffic lights at the junction of Denmark Hill and Champion Park will need examining, if the current high flow of cars approaching it from Champion Hill switches to using Grove Lane and Champion Park.