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1 December 2021

Dear Islington resident,

BLUE BADGE EXEMPTION POLICY TO BE INTRODUCED IN HIGHBURY WEST AND HIGHBURY FIELDS

We're committed to making Islington a cleaner, greener, healthier place for everyone, and our people-friendly streets neighbourhood trials are a key part of this. Throughout the process of introducing people-friendly streets the council has been clear that it is listening to feedback from local people, including the valuable feedback it has received from disabled residents and groups representing disabled people, and has proposed some changes to how the programme works. This includes the announcement of a new policy to grant Blue Badge holders who live inside low traffic neighbourhoods in Islington an exemption from camera-enforced traffic filters in their home LTN. **This letter explains the policy, but it is not a permit.** Eligible Blue Badge holders will not need to apply for their permit, but will be sent a separate letter (with their permit details) in due course.

Please visit www.islington.gov.uk/PFSbluebadgeexemption for more details.

What is the policy?

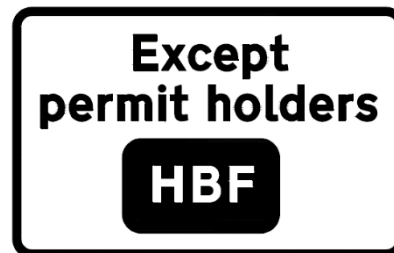
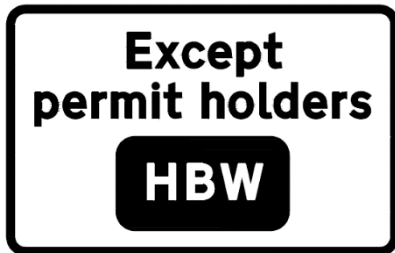
The policy will offer an exemption to Blue Badge holders who live inside a low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) in Islington (this includes properties on the LTN side of the boundary roads), with a vehicle registered to their address. This approach was approved by the council at the meeting of its Executive on 14 October 2021. In Highbury West and Highbury Fields, the exemption will apply for all of the camera-enforced traffic filters within each LTN. Eligible Blue Badge holders will be permitted to register a nominated vehicle that is used for their transportation and is registered to their home address. This will help disabled people who rely on their vehicles for short local journeys.

Please note that a Blue Badge by itself does not exempt the holder from the camera-enforced traffic filters – it is the permit which exempts the registered vehicle.

The registered vehicle will be exempt from the camera-enforced filters when being used by the Blue Badge holder (either as a driver or passenger). It will not be exempt when the Blue Badge holder is not in the vehicle and may still be liable for Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) if driven through a traffic filter.

When will it take effect?

The Blue Badge exemption policy is being rolled out across Islington's low traffic neighbourhoods. We expect it to go live in Highbury West and Highbury Fields in mid-December 2021. You will see new plates being installed on the signage at traffic filter locations in both LTNs, which will indicate that the exemptions have been made legal. These plates will appear below the 'No Motor Vehicles' sign and look like this:



If you are an eligible Blue Badge holder who lives in Highbury West or Highbury Fields you will be sent a letter with details of your permit – this will clearly state which permit code applies to you. If you live in Highbury West, you will be sent an HBW permit (which will allow the registered vehicle to be driven through the traffic filters in Highbury West), if you live in Highbury Fields you will be sent an HBF permit (which will allow the registered vehicle to be driven through the traffic filters in Highbury Fields). See the maps at the end of this letter for the locations of these traffic filters. Some advance warning signage will also be installed to make it clear where these permits apply.

You will not be exempt from the LTN restrictions until you have received this letter advising you an exemption has been granted to your vehicle.

Blue Badge holders who do not hold a Free Resident Permit or Dedicated Disabled Bay

If you are an Islington Blue Badge holder with a Free Resident Permit (FRP) or a Dedicated Disabled Bay (DDB), your details should be on our system, and in that case you do not need to apply. You will be sent a letter with details of your permit, as described above. If you have not received this letter by 14 December, please contact us at PFSBlueBadge@islington.gov.uk

If you do not hold either a Blue Badge issued by the London Borough of Islington, a Free Resident Permit or a Dedicated Disabled Bay, we will not have your details recorded. You will therefore need to complete an application form if you require a permit. Please visit www.islington.gov.uk/PFSbluebadgeexemption to make your application. You will need to upload photos or scans of documents as evidence. Depending on the information we already hold, this may include evidence of your: Blue Badge, identity, address, and vehicle registration.

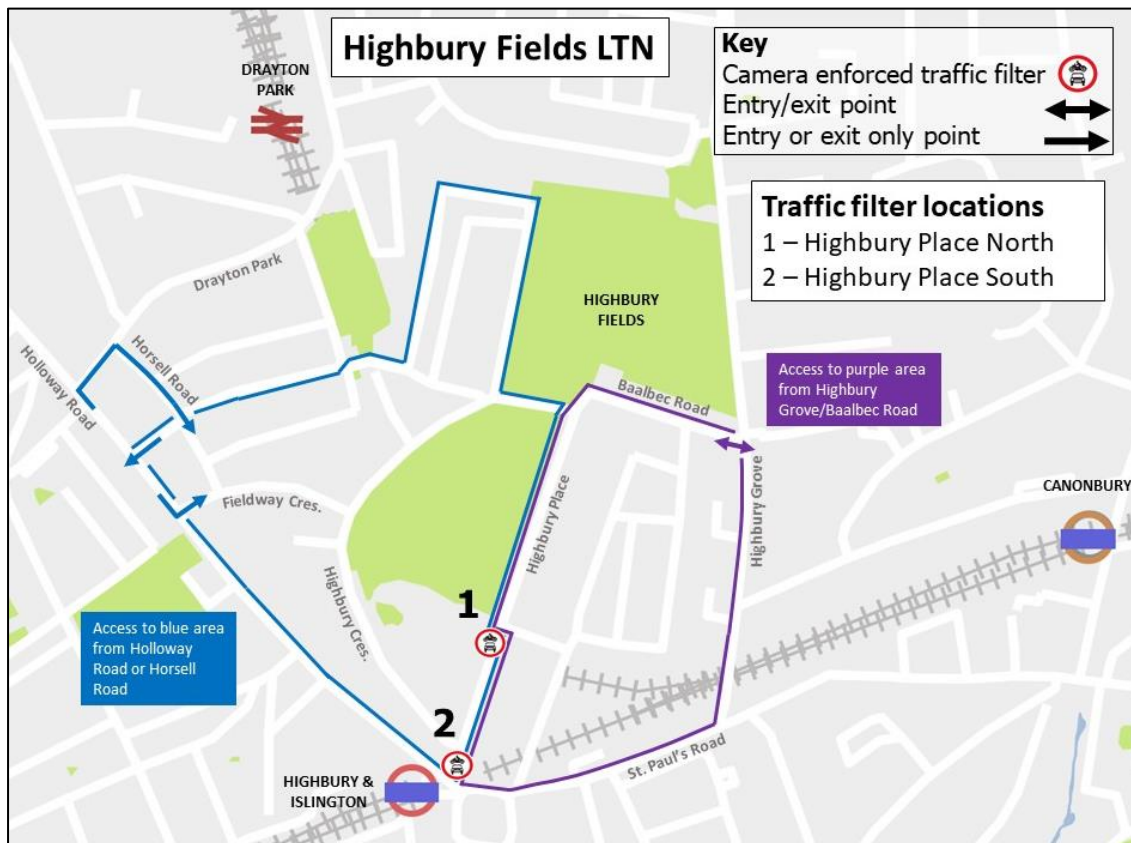
Once your application has been successfully processed, we will send you the letter described above, with details of your permit.

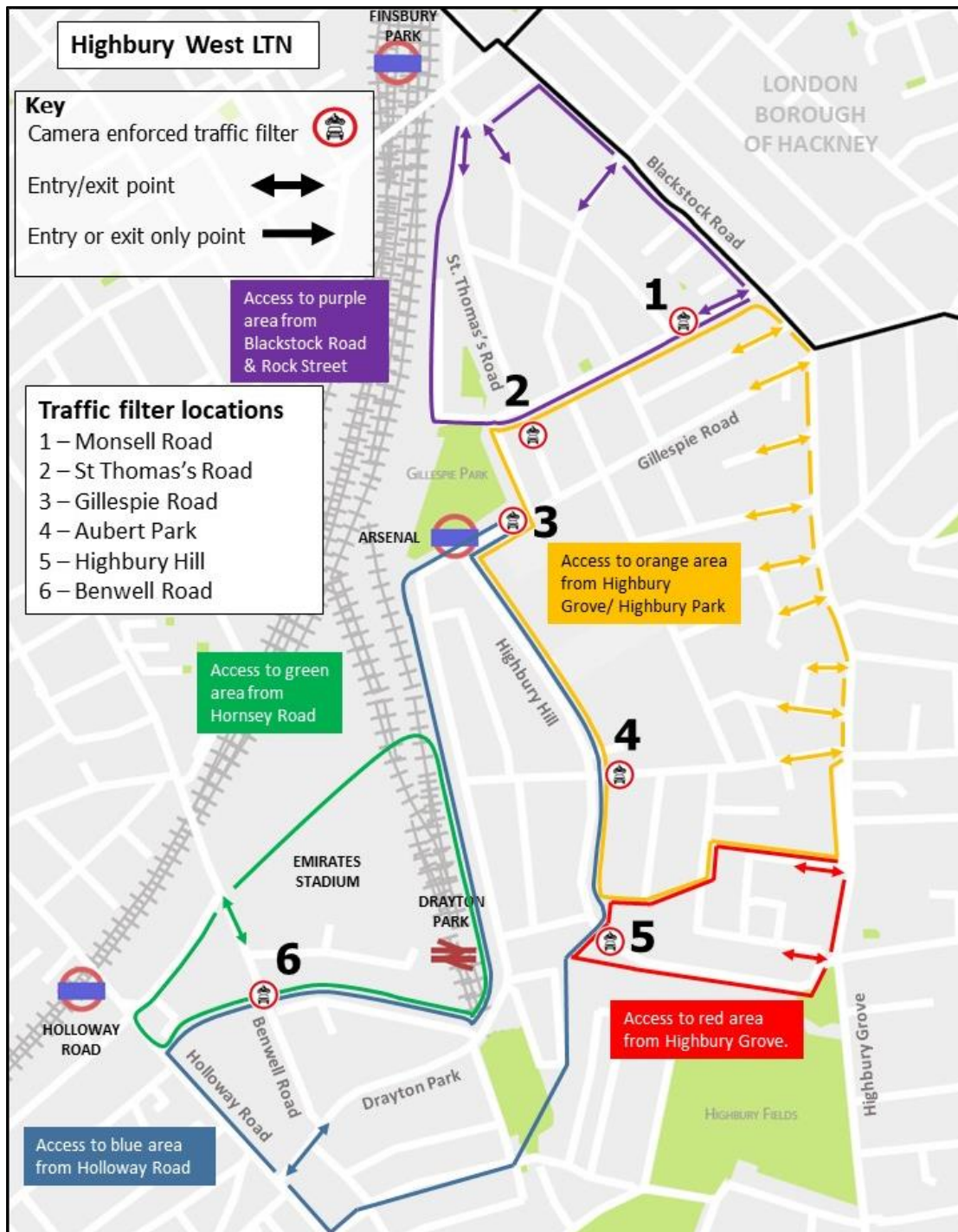
You will not be exempt from the LTN restrictions until you have received this letter advising you an exemption has been granted to your vehicle.

Works to enable the exemptions

As we understand that many Blue Badge holders have been continuing to drive for their local journeys since the LTNs were implemented, we do not think that this will increase the number of motor vehicle journeys in and around each LTN by a significant amount. Keeping motor vehicle volumes low in the LTN is important, as many people (both disabled and non-disabled) are now used to the changes and benefit from the reduction in road danger and improvement in air quality. However, one of the effects of this exemption is that there may be more vehicle movements at or around the traffic filters.

To ensure that these additional vehicle movements are as safe as possible, we have carried out Road Safety Audits (RSAs) at each filter location. As a result, we need to carry out some changes to the traffic filters on Gillespie Road (near the junction of St Thomas’s Road) and on Benwell Street (near the junction of Bryantwood Road). These works are expected to begin on 6 December 2021 and be complete by 10 December 2021. Works will take place only during the daytime, from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Access routes will be unchanged during the duration of these works.





If you have any further queries on the Blue Badge exemption permits, please visit www.islington.gov.uk/PFSbluebadgeexemption for our FAQs. Alternatively, you can email PFSBlueBadge@islington.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Martijn Coijmans
 Director of Climate Change and Transport, Islington Council