

Transforming Archway Gyratory into Navigator Square



Archway has been transformed over the past three years. The 1960's gyratory system that caused traffic to dominate and divide the area has gone.

The new square underlines our commitment to create a healthier, greener Islington by encouraging people to walk and cycle, and to take steps to help tackle poor air quality. We want our streets and neighbourhoods to be enjoyable, welcoming places.

Navigator Square is a space for the community with a regular market, annual events including summer and Christmas lights festivals and a vinyl market to promote local venues, labels and record shops.

New measures have also been introduced to green and improve air quality in Archway. New trees have been introduced outside Archway library and in Despard Road and we have seen air quality improve in the area. Planting has been installed outside Vorley Road Children's Centre, and the pavement there widened.

Before the transformation started you told us your concerns:

1. Will it be bad for local air quality?

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and air pollution are linked to lung cancer, chest infections and disease, heart disease and strokes. There has been an average fall of 26% in the NO₂ levels in the area since the removal of the gyratory and its replacement with the two-way traffic system around Navigator Square, reflecting borough wide trends. Around the nursery on Vorley Road, the reduction is even greater where NO₂ levels have fallen by 33%.

2. Will traffic increase?

On average, traffic on main roads and side streets in the area has seen little statistically significant change.

3. Will journey times increase?

Bus and general traffic times have largely returned to pre-works timings.

The added bonus

The design also freed up a Council-owned site for the construction of more than 50 new affordable homes.



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