

How this road is damaging a community

At the moment Evesham Road has a settled community of people who mostly chose to live there because it is a quiet residential area. It has friendly, supportive neighbours, access to a wonderful green place (Aylestone Meadows) and a good school, and is therefore a good place to bring up children. Many people have lived there for decades and have friends, deep roots and a strong emotional attachment to it.

Residents have a number of specific concerns:

- Safety – mixing fast flowing and residential traffic is unsafe.
- Air pollution – impacting especially on the old, ill and very young.
- Loss of parking, which is already a struggle in the evenings.
- Foundation damage to houses.
- Noise levels as a result of more and faster traffic and the road-building itself.

In some cases, people found out about the potential for this road before they bought their homes and spoke to the planning department who assured them it was not going to happen. It was on this assurance that they bought their homes. Others did not know about it when they moved into the area and would not have moved there had they known that this possibility might arise.

The prospect of this road being built is hurting people and damaging the community. Some are thinking about moving away. Others feel their lives are on hold and find themselves unwilling to put time, money or energy into their homes in case they end up losing them. Both individuals and community were damaged last time the council considered building this road, and people are deeply upset at going through it all again.

The neighbourliness of this community is partly due to Evesham Road being relatively quiet. People talk to each other across the road, look out for each other's homes and families, and cross easily to talk to each other. If the road is built however, the community will be separated by dangerous traffic, and it will become harder to stop and chat. As people move away to avoid the noise and pollution the community will lose the ties of friendships which holds it together and so its cohesion. For some this will be devastating as they lose friends who they have lived near for decades.

Building this road would be hugely damaging to the local community around Evesham Rd and to the communities living on the other roads it runs through. Please don't do it.

There are solutions: car use can be managed instead of catered for. Public and active transport can be prioritised resulting in a happier, healthier and cleaner Leicester.

“For me the Evesham Rd community epitomises neighbourliness, i.e. friendliness, helping out, greetings, humour, care. It’s a community of long-time and new residents, home owners and tenants. Evesham road unites us and we desperately don’t want to be separated.”

-Jean McNeil, Evesham Road.

“We have lived here for 25 years and have cultivated many longstanding friendships with neighbours.”

-Bharti Marji, Evesham Road.

“My partner has a long-term disability which includes sound sensitivity. If this road is built she won’t be able to sit in the garden or sleep with the window open. It will make her life even harder than it already is.”

-Zina Zelter, Heyworth Road