# Residents call for urgent action as Verdant Lane crash rate triples neighbouring streets



Residents of Verdant Lane in Catford, southeast London, are growing increasingly frustrated with what they describe as a daily barrage of traffic chaos, pollution, and frequent accidents that have turned their once peaceful street into a perilous thoroughfare. Dubbed "Britain's most dangerous road," Verdant Lane witnesses at least one crash a week, according to locals, who liken their experiences to scenes from the dystopian film series "Mad Max," known for its high-octane car chases and reckless driving.

The growing urgency of their plight is underscored by alarming statistics: an FOI request revealed 74 reported crashes between 2019 and 2024, a staggering figure that is over three times that of neighbouring roads. Residents, frustrated by a lack of action from local authorities, are calling for immediate traffic calming measures. William Bloomfield, a long-term resident, expressed his exasperation, stating, "We are just getting absolutely nowhere with the council. We have been talking to them for a year now, and nothing has happened."

Local drivers are not just speeding; they are using Verdant Lane as a shortcut to avoid congested A roads, further compounding the issue. Gary Nolan, who also lives on the lane, shared that serious accidents have become a common occurrence, noting, "It is a dangerous situation... If I was slightly older or had children, I would have to avoid the junction at all costs." The air quality in the area has also plummeted, with locals reporting a layer of black dust accumulating in their homes. Nolan indicated, "When traffic builds up, you can feel the pollution in the air."

This situation is compounded by a disturbing local history. Nine-year-old Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, whose tragic death due to asthma was linked to pollution from nearby roads, casts a long shadow over the community. Residents now live with the constant reminder of her grave, which lies in close proximity to their homes, allowing the community's fears about air quality and children's health to take centre stage. Anna Reiser, a fellow resident, noted her concern over the health implications for her child, saying, "It is a constant worry. We have had quite serious conversations about moving."

While efforts are being made to address these issues, including ongoing discussions between Lewisham Council and local residents, progress has been slow. A council spokesperson mentioned that they are conducting surveys and traffic counts to gather data on the road's usage and speed, indicating a commitment to enhance local safety. However, the frustration among residents remains palpable, with many feeling that the attention from authorities has not translated into tangible safety improvements.

Transport for London (TfL) also acknowledged the challenges at the Verdant Lane junction, attributing congestion to a range of factors, including ongoing construction work and the narrow roadway under the rail bridge. Nevertheless, Nora, an active member of the community group advocating for traffic reforms, remained sceptical about the effectiveness of the proposed solutions. "It seems like TfL have lost control of the junction," she said, expressing doubts about a visible plan to alleviate congestion and improve road safety.

Amidst these challenges, the Together for Verdant Lane group has taken proactive steps to address environmental concerns by securing funds to plant trees. However, their initiative was thwarted when they were denied permission to plant on safety grounds, further exemplifying the frustrating balance between safety and environmental improvement that residents navigate daily.

As concerns mount, the residents of Verdant Lane continue to seek support from local authorities to implement necessary changes that would not only enhance safety but also improve air quality. Their struggle illustrates a broader crisis of urban living, where increasing congestion, pollution, and unaddressed safety concerns converge, demanding urgent action from both local councils and transport authorities.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14797147/Britain-dangerous-road-Mad-Max-crash.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.thisislocallondon.co.uk/news/24703947.verdant-lane-catford-residents-face-daily-traffic-chaos/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14797147/Britain-dangerous-road-Mad-Max-crash.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.thisislocallondon.co.uk/news/24703947.verdant-lane-catford-residents-face-daily-traffic-chaos/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14797147/Britain-dangerous-road-Mad-Max-crash.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://clogsilk.blogspot.com/2015/05/pollution-monitoring-in-catford-and.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14797147/Britain-dangerous-road-Mad-Max-crash.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/sustainable-streets-programme), [[6]](https://cms.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/lewisham-and-lee-green-low-traffic-neighbourhood)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14797147/Britain-dangerous-road-Mad-Max-crash.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/road-safety/traffic-calming-measures)
* Paragraph 6 – [[3]](https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/sustainable-streets-programme), [[4]](https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/road-safety/traffic-calming-measures), [[7]](https://cms.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/sustainable-streets-programme)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14797147/Britain-dangerous-road-Mad-Max-crash.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thisislocallondon.co.uk/news/24703947.verdant-lane-catford-residents-face-daily-traffic-chaos/> - Residents of Verdant Lane in Catford, southeast London, have expressed concerns over daily traffic chaos, dangerous driving, and pollution. They report frequent accidents, including a recent incident where a stolen Tesla crashed into a home. Locals are calling for Lewisham Council to implement traffic calming measures and improve junction safety. The council is actively working with community groups to address these issues, conducting traffic surveys, and collaborating with Transport for London to assess potential changes to the road layout at the Verdant Lane junction with the A205 South Circular Road.
3. <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/sustainable-streets-programme> - Lewisham Council's Sustainable Streets programme aims to reduce car journeys and encourage sustainable transport options like walking, cycling, and public transport. The initiative seeks to improve road safety, air quality, and the overall environment by introducing measures such as parking permit schemes, street trees, safer crossings, electric vehicle charging points, secure cycle storage, and car club bays. The programme is being rolled out in phases across the borough, with ongoing consultations to gather feedback from residents and businesses.
4. <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/road-safety/traffic-calming-measures> - Lewisham Council's approach to traffic calming prioritises areas based on the number of personal injury accidents. Measures include speed limits, speed cameras, and speed humps. The council does not typically install traffic calming on a single road to avoid transferring issues to adjacent areas. Residents can request traffic calming measures or related repairs by completing the speed enforcement report form. For issues on red routes, Transport for London is responsible for traffic lights, signs, and markings.
5. <https://clogsilk.blogspot.com/2015/05/pollution-monitoring-in-catford-and.html> - In February 2015, a group conducted air pollution monitoring in Catford and Hither Green, placing 30 nitrogen dioxide monitoring tubes in various locations. The results revealed that several areas, including Verdant Lane, exceeded EU legal limits for nitrogen dioxide levels, indicating harmful air pollution. The findings were reported in local media, and discussions with the council and MP Heidi Alexander were initiated to address air quality concerns, including advocating for hybrid buses and measures to reduce traffic on residential roads.
6. <https://cms.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/lewisham-and-lee-green-low-traffic-neighbourhood> - The Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) aims to create safer, cleaner, and greener streets by reducing through-traffic and discouraging non-essential car journeys. Introduced in July 2020 and revised in November 2020, the LTN uses modal filters like physical planters or signage to restrict vehicular access, allowing cyclists, emergency vehicles, and waste vehicles to pass through. Blue Badge holders living in Lewisham can apply for exemptions. The council continues to monitor traffic and air quality data within and around the LTN.
7. <https://cms.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/sustainable-streets-programme> - Lewisham Council's Sustainable Streets programme aims to reduce car journeys and encourage sustainable transport options like walking, cycling, and public transport. The initiative seeks to improve road safety, air quality, and the overall environment by introducing measures such as parking permit schemes, street trees, safer crossings, electric vehicle charging points, secure cycle storage, and car club bays. The programme is being rolled out in phases across the borough, with ongoing consultations to gather feedback from residents and businesses.