

## **LRAG News Update – 25 July 2023**

### Sustainable Travel Reference Group (STRG)

By the time you read this, the Miro Board will have been taken away and analysed by The Consultation Institute. The results are due to be presented at the STRG meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

As a mere contributor it is difficult to know what the outcome will be, but it did appear that there were several shortcomings in the process.

Instead of understanding that the purpose was to create important topics for public engagement, several contributors treated the opportunity to debate the rights and wrongs of the scheme, by adding comments to original posts. Obtaining a record of the basic remarks was easy but none of the argumentative comments downloaded. So, unless The Consultation Institute accesses, and uses, these sometimes-hostile interplays between contributors the efforts made may be completely nugatory.

Some contributors thought it appropriate to adopt a social media, smear-style reference to other contributors, to the extent that a large and bold message appeared, stating: “Participants on this board are reminded that conversations are to be conducted in a respectful and civil manner and the purpose is to set the topics for the next and public stage of engagement. All are entitled to their opinion and points made will be debated in another forum..”

LRAG was subject to some of these smears, being referred to as a fringe organisation that didn’t represent the whole community, and was pro-car. Just for clarification, for all the world to see, the LLAG website states: “London Road Action Group (LRAG) was created, not as an anti-cyclist nor anti-scheme group, but to help avoid future public impressions of disenfranchisement.” Its objectives, and the breadth of its “fringe”, are to be found here [LRAG - ABOUT US](#).

### SCC Website

The London Road, Burpham - Active Travel Scheme website was updated again on 21 July, with descriptions of progress and the publication of minutes of the 21 June meeting. Although these minutes were not amended to become an accurate record, as alluded to in last week’s newsletter, the draft minutes from 19 July have acknowledged the need to show peak time conditions in any VR demonstration.

It will never be admitted, but LLAG feels vindicated by the more frequent website updates, because it made a strong recommendation that it was necessary in order to address complaints about a lack of openness.