

FFDF News

Freedom for Drivers Foundation Newsletter

Follow the Blog

The FFDF has a blog where articles first appear. It is present here:
<https://freedomfordrivers.blog/>

To get the latest news as it appears, follow the blog by entering your email address in the box at the foot of blog articles.

Follow us on Twitter

To get the latest news and comment on traffic and transport issues in London and the UK, you can follow us on Twitter.

Our Twitter handle is
@Drivers_London

Any new FFDF blog posts are notified by Twitter and you can of course respond with your own comments.

See the last page for publisher and contact information.

Editorial

It's time for me to retire again!

I retired from a full-time job over 25 years ago. Now at the age of 77 and with major health problems I need to cut back on my commitments (I had one kidney transplant 20 years ago but need another which may not happen). I have therefore decided to stop publishing this newsletter in its current form.

It is rather archaic anyway now and all the articles published in the newsletter are now put on our blog – see <https://freedomfordrivers.blog/>

At the foot of all recent blog posts is a box in which you can enter your email address which ensures you will be notified of any new posts as they appear. This is obviously a quicker way of getting news to you than publishing a newsletter every two months. In addition the blog is easily searchable by using the search box at the top right of all blog posts.

The archive of all old newsletters will remain on our web site - under the Resources tab. New items of news will appear on the blog with occasional emails where action is required.

Although I can still drive, I have obtained a blue badge to help with parking and have purchased an electric wheelchair for when I need to walk long distances.

So I can now report on the problems faced by disabled people. With the emphasis put on “active travel” by the Government and local Councils disabled people are now subject to great prejudice. Whereas cars enable the disabled to live independent lives.

The electric wheelchair I purchased folds up and can be stowed in the boot of most cars. Photo below is of me in the wheelchair. I am still learning to use it so watch out if you see me coming!

There may still be some articles sent to newsletter recipients in future via email. For convenience the next page gives you a list of all blog articles published since our last newsletter.

Roger Lawson (Editor)



FFDF

Recent Blog Posts

(you can step through them on the blog or use the search function to go directly to them)

ULEZ Asthma Impact

ULEZ Air Pollution Impact and Financial Impact Summary

How Many Non-ULEZ Compliant Vehicles Drive in London?

Mayor Abuses Opponents of ULEZ and Conservatives Gear Up

Cycling in Decline

Government Petition Response —A Whitewash Coming

Road Pricing Not on Government Agenda

Oxfordshire Bribed to Introduce Traffic Filters

Sadiq Khan Shows H is True Colours

Good Turnout at Demonstration in Trafalgar Square (see photo below).

Petition to Remove Mayor of London Rejected

New Petition: Remove LTNs and Greenwash Traffic Schemes

London Congestion Charge and Smart User Road Charging Inquiry

Government May Block ULEZ Expansion

Five Councils Apply for Judicial Review of ULEZ Expansion

London is World's Slowest City

Collision Data and More Speeding Fines in London

Wandsworth Speeding Tickets Blocked

ULEZ Science and Demonstrations

Air Pollution and the Widespread Misinformation On It

Legal Action Against Shell

Air Pollution

ULEZ – Mayor Gets Tough But Legal Case Pursued by Boroughs

MAKE SURE YOU REGISTER TO FOLLOW THE BLOG IF NOT ALREADY DONE!

(See box on page 1).



Disabled Motoring

By Roger Lawson

As a disabled driver with a blue badge there are some advantages. One can park in disabled parking bays and on single/double yellow lines on streets (but not in permit parking bays). I also get free parking in council owned off-street car parks in the Borough of Bromley (but not necessarily elsewhere).

I also get exemption from the London Congestion Charge but not from the ULEZ. Why not the latter?

If I drive to Guys Hospital I have to submit a complex claim form to get a refund. Why is the system made so complicated?



Disabled drivers face a number of problems and an organisation that represents their interests is Disabled Motoring UK—see <https://www.disabledmotoring.org>

It is a registered charity with several thousand members. Why not join if you suffer from a disability?

A screenshot of their web site is shown above.

Note that registering for a blue badge is worth doing but this is yet another complex application system that must put off many people. The regulations about when and where it can be used are also needlessly complicated.

Twenty Years of Campaigns

By Roger Lawson

This newsletter has been published in various forms since 1999. I originally got interested in traffic and transport issues over the installation of speed humps. An alleged road safety measure when the real evidence did not support them but a clamour to “do something” meant they got the backing of ill-informed local councillors. But by the law of unintended consequences they created more problems that affected disabled people and increased air pollution.

Now we have people wanting 20 mph speed limits everywhere when the evidence is very clear that putting up signs does not reduce accidents and has minimal impact on traffic speeds (about 1 mph for 20 limits for example).

The Covid epidemic created an opportunity for the car hating brigade to promote Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) as a way to reduce traffic. Everybody thinks there is too much traffic because the population has been growing rapidly but the road network has not, particularly in major cities such as London.

This is the fault of our national Government which continues to spend billions of pounds on expensive railways rather than on roads. HS2 is a classic example of no proper cost/benefit justification but there are many other examples.

This has been a problem irrespective of the political complexion of whichever Government is in power.

Our political leaders have failed to provide responsible leadership in many ways. In London we have a Mayor in Sadiq Khan who is more interested in winning

elections than in providing an economically sound transport network.

His transport strategy assumes that if everyone is encouraged to walk and cycle then the health of the population and life expectancy will improve. There is no evidence to support this and it is simply not happening despite the years he has been in power.

On issues such as air pollution, the Mayor has misled people and lied to promote his policies while he ignores other major problems such as crime in London.

We now have “populist” policies from politicians which catch people’s sympathies but which are not based on scientific evidence. No the world has not got better in the last 20 years and my efforts to educate people about the realities may have had little impact. But I will continue trying to do so.





Registering to Receive This Newsletter

This newsletter is free of charge and is sent approximately bi-monthly to anyone who cares to request a copy. It is sent via email (as a link to a web page from which you can download it). To register for a free copy simply go to this web page: <http://www.freedomfordrivers.org/register.htm> and fill out the form to be added to our mailing list.

Address Changes

Don't forget to notify us of any change of email address. You may otherwise miss out on future copies of this newsletter without noticing that they are no longer being delivered.

About the Freedom for Drivers Foundation (FFDF)

The Freedom for Drivers Foundation (FFDF) is an independent organisation which represents the interests of private motorists in the United Kingdom. We campaign to protect the rights of individual road users and believe that road transport is a beneficial and essential element in the UK transport infrastructure. We oppose excessive taxation of motorists and are against road tolls. We also campaign for more enlightened road safety policies. More information on the FFDF is available from our web site at www.freedomfordrivers.org

Contact and Publisher Information

This Newsletter is published by the Freedom for Drivers Foundation, PO Box 62, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 5YB and is distributed free of charge to registered supporters and to anyone else who has an interest in traffic and transport issues. All material contained herein is Copyright of the FFDF or of the respective authors and may only be reproduced with permission. Any opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author of the article or that of the Editor which do not necessarily represent the official policies of the FFDF.

The FFDF also publishes a blog which can be found here: <https://freedomfordrivers.blog/> or you can follow us on Twitter here: https://twitter.com/Drivers_London

FFDF Director and Newsletter Editor: Roger Lawson (Tel: 020-8295-0378). Use the web site Contact Page here to contact: www.freedomfordrivers.org/Contact.htm . The FFDF would be happy to advise or assist anyone who is concerned about any traffic, transport or road safety issues in London or elsewhere in the UK. Complimentary subscriptions to this newsletter are available on request to anyone with an interest in transport matters. Our internet web address is: www.freedomfordrivers.org . This newsletter is supplied in electronic form which can be displayed and printed via the free Adobe Acrobat Reader. Past copies of our newsletters can be obtained from the www.freedomfordrivers.org web site or by contacting the publisher.

