

CROSS RIVER PARTNERSHIP

Delivering London's Future Together

Welcome to Cross River Partnership's April Newsletter



Clean Air Villages Covid-19 response

Over the past few weeks, the direction of [Defra](#)-funded CRP [Clean Air Villages](#) programme has had to adapt to the current circumstances. In a time where delivery services have become vital, allowing people to shop for essential items whilst maintaining social distancing and government guidelines, CRP is in awe at the brilliant work of businesses and individuals involved in the Clean Air Villages programme.

[Read more](#)



New Coronavirus Guidance and Support webpage

We have created a [dedicated hub of information](#) with useful guidance for businesses and communities, links to official government resources, and key updates from CRP's projects supporting those in need.

Please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) if you require any additional support or advice during this time.

Covid-19 Guidance and Support

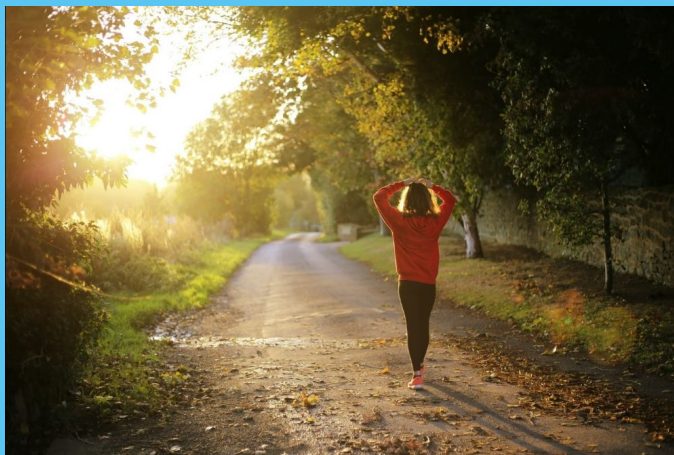


Barriers for councils to create car-free streets temporarily lifted

The [Department for Transport](#) has sent a letter to councils in England saying that they can temporarily [by-pass lengthy procedures to implement street closures](#) - a key aid that will help people walk and cycle more easily whilst social distancing during the current crisis.

[Transport for London](#) (TfL) is looking at the major roads that it manages, to see where pavements could be temporarily enlarged. It is also adjusting and balancing traffic light timings to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists to cross major roads whilst ensuring critical road traffic is still moving. In addition, TfL has pledged to work with London boroughs and the [GLA](#) to look at ways of reducing traffic on residential streets it does not manage.

[Read more](#)



Have our streets been reclaimed?

Taking a moment to reflect on lockdown, it is apparent that a communal sense of behaviour change has become embedded within Londoners. Lockdown has allowed us to take a step back and admire the lower levels of pollution and the reclamation of urban areas by wildlife as a result of the many deserted streets, once dominated by traffic.

Never has there been a more important time to admire and cherish our streets, neighbourhood and parks. As part of the [Healthy Streets Everyday](#) (HSE) programme, CRP is continuing to support both borough and private partners through this challenging time. Current services are still going ahead, such as our [Hackney School Streets](#) Helpline which is offering support to our borough partners through all stages of their School Streets implementation.

We would like to hear how you view your local streets and neighbourhoods during lockdown by completing [this survey](#). Your feedback would be greatly appreciated. Remember to stay safe and always follow government guidance. For more information, please contact [Tomos Joyce](#).

[Read more](#)



The Green Recovery Call: A Sustainable Focus for Businesses

During this difficult time where the coronavirus crisis is shaking the world, the health sector, economy and society are having to adapt to fight the current situation. The challenging situation has called for mobilisation on a green recovery to Reboot & Reboost economies for a sustainable future. When it comes time to rebuild the economies across the world it is the opportunity to develop a new model of prosperity with a strong focus on green principles.

The [Green Recovery Call](#) includes a transition to a climate-neutral economy, the protection of biodiversity and the transformation of agri-food systems to contribute to building more resilient societies. A group of 180 political decision-makers, business leaders, financial leaders, NGOs, stakeholders around the EU have started to sign the Green Recovery Call.

[Read the Green Recovery Call here](#)



New partnership project – EV Fleet-centred Local Energy Systems

CRP is delighted to announce that we have been successful in securing funds as part of the UK government's [Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund's Prospering from the Energy Revolution](#) challenge.

[EV Fleet-Centred Local Energy Systems](#) (EFLES) is an innovative 12-month collaboration between [UK Power Networks Services](#), [UPS](#), [Moixa](#) and [CRP](#). The

project will build on the technology and lessons learnt from CRP's [SEUL](#) project, which delivered a new method of simultaneously recharging an entire fleet of electric vehicles without the need for an upgrade to the power supply grid.

For more information, please contact [Tom Linton-Smith](#).



**Innovate
UK**

Innovate UK

CRP has submitted a £50,000 bid to [Innovate UK](#) to support its public, private and community partners to get [Back to Business](#) safely as the Covid-19 crisis evolves.

CRP is already delivering a larger Innovate UK-funded project, [Electric Vehicle Fleet-Centred Local Energy Systems](#) (EFLES), with partners including [UPS](#), [Moixa](#) and [UK Power Networks](#).

CRP would like to thank its Board Co-Chair Business Improvement District [Camden Town Centre Limited](#) for playing the lead partner role on its latest collaborative Back to Business Innovate UK bid.

The Back to Business bid has been designed to support businesses of all sectors and sizes to adapt to operating differently in this initial Covid-19 lockdown, and through future anticipated lockdowns. The aim is that further government help may be released as a result.

[Read more](#)

[View CRP's Back to Business bid here](#)



Celebrating Clean Air Villages Achievements

This month we are celebrating the conclusion of [Clean Air Villages 2](#) (CAV2), a one-year project funded by the [Defra](#) Air Quality Grant. Over the past year, CRP's CAV2 team have worked with businesses to reduce emissions from deliveries and freight within some of the most polluted areas across London.

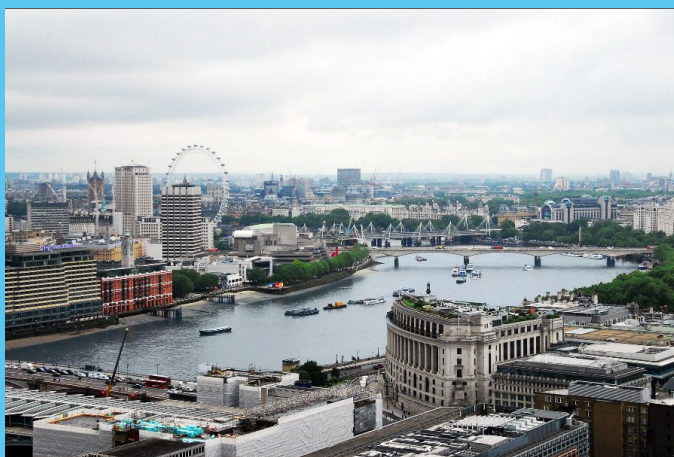
A celebration of CAV2 in numbers:

- **13 Clean Air 'Villages'** across **7 different boroughs** with **9 different partners** involved.
- **Hosted 11 air quality workshops**, which invited the local business community to discuss the air quality issues and solutions relevant to their area.
- **90 businesses engaged** with via 121 meetings. This does not include the many more engaged via surveying, workshops, events and so on!
- **13 local solutions implemented**, each tailored to the business community, including setting up cargo-bike deliveries and shared electric vehicle schemes.

- **Over 2,500 miles** driven in the Brixton shared electric van. These miles would otherwise have been carried out in polluting vans, **avoiding over 1,450 kg of CO₂** tailpipe emissions.
- **24 new businesses listed on the CRP Clean Air Villages Directory.** This brings the total to 50 businesses, all delivering using low or zero emission methods.
- **28 Clean Car dongles** now available. The first of these are being used by Hammersmith & Fulham Council who are looking at their fleet electrification strategy. Dongles are devices plugged into vehicles which measure the distance travelled, using GPS to see what infrastructure is near your route. They will compare EVs on the market, relevant to use of the vehicle.

The legacy of CAV2 continues, as the third year of Clean Air Villages has now begun! This year we are delighted to continue working with each of the 7 Local Authorities involved with CAV2, as well as welcoming 5 additional Authorities and 4 Business Improvement Districts.

For more information on the CAV programme, please contact CRP's Project Manager, [Kate Fenton](#).



Clean Air Thames Update

CRP is having conversations with operators who recognise that environmental sustainability, including improved air quality, is an important part of their strategy. There is a clear desire to incorporate or strengthen sustainability goals, including greening their fleets where possible. We are pleased that [Clean Air Thames's Mayor's Air Quality Funding](#) will be available to help some of these operators retrofit their vessels to reduce exhaust emissions.

The restrictions the UK government has put in place to curtail the spread of the Covid-19 virus have also impacted river traffic. Some operators continue to supply the city with essential supplies such as food, fuel and medicine. Others provide essential services by moving the rubbish we produce to waste to energy centres.

However, many operators have had to scale down their operations, while others have had to dock vessels and furlough their crew. Nevertheless, they are taking a pragmatic approach to the situation by using this down time to look forward and review their business plans for when the restrictions ease.

For more information about Clean Air Thames, please visit the [project page](#) or contact [Sefinat Otaru](#).



CRP Annual Report 2019-20 and Business Plan 2020-21 launched

Take a look at our [latest annual report](#) detailing the fantastic achievements we have made in collaboration with our valued partners over the past year! From completing the delivery of the [Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood](#) and [Smart Electric Urban Logistics](#) projects, to [recommending policies to influence central London traffic volumes and types](#), and receiving the ['Best Collaboration' Award at Chartered Institute of Environmental Health – Excellence Awards 2019](#), and much much more.

Also detailed are our ambitious targets and commitments, some of which are well under way, to meet in the year ahead.

If you would like to find out more about Cross River Partnership, or if your organisation would like to partner with us, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

[Read the report here](#)



CRP Working from Home!

The [CRP Team](#), along with colleagues from our accountable body, [Westminster City Council](#) (WCC), continue to work from home during the lockdown as a result of the [COVID-19](#) pandemic. It has enabled us to improve our IT skills whilst getting to grips with a new way of working.

CRP is continuing with project delivery, albeit in a different way and also continuing to support all of our [partners](#) in whatever we can. It is extremely important that we all look after our [mental health](#) and well-being during these unprecedented times.

Please contact [Carol Quamina](#) for more information.



International Car Free Days: An Inspiration to the UK

[Car Free Day](#) is an opportunity to champion traffic-free cities and active travel, with additional focus on place making and air quality. There are some amazing and innovative examples from across the globe on how to make Car Free Day exciting and fun for all.

Many African countries such as Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda have adopted monthly car-free days, an initiative launched by their governments to encourage non-

motorised transportation and combat air pollution. With less vehicle activity on our streets and more people out walking and cycling, could we take inspiration and make Car Free Day a more frequent occurrence?

[Read more](#)



Out with the Old, In with the New

As my octogenarian mother gets her annual Spring Cleaning truly underway, it really does herald the dawn of a new era for all of us, in every possible sense. This week the planet's population celebrated [Earth Day](#), a timely reminder of the fragility in which all of us exist.

A key aspect of this fragility is the quality of the air that we breathe, every day, all day, and all night too. Although originally set up to build physical bridges, Cross River Partnership (CRP) has for more than a decade been delivering successful, collaborative projects to improve air quality in London and beyond.

Cast your minds back to CRP's air quality projects over the years – [Freight Electric Vehicles in Urban Europe](#), [Last Mile Logistics](#), [Freight TAILS](#), [Smart Electric Urban Logistics](#), [West End Delivery and Servicing Plan](#), [Healthy Greening](#), [Clean Air Better Business](#), [Healthy Streets Everyday](#), [Clean Air Thames](#), [Clean Air Villages](#) – it's a long list, and the projects all have snappy titles!

And now in the midst of the global Covid Crisis, poor air quality means that communities living in that are more likely to be affected by Covid-19, as they are more vulnerable to respiratory infections (Cambridge University study in the process of being peer-reviewed).

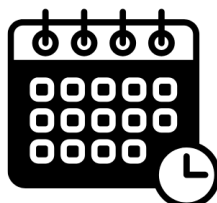
So CRP is already working with its public, private and community partners, supported by its funders, to rapidly flex its project delivery services to help meet some of the most urgent needs posed by Covid-19.

Think cargo bike deliveries of urgent pharmacy prescriptions to vulnerable residents' doorsteps. Think food bank parcels going direct to hungry families' homes.

Please get in touch if there is anything you think CRP may be able to help you with. Even if we can't help ourselves, we will almost certainly know a man (or a woman!), who can! [Susannah Wilks](#), CRP Director.

[Read more](#)

Dates for the Diary:



Tuesday 28th April. Brixton BID Hospitality & ENTE Business Webinar. More information [here](#).

Tuesday 28th April. How to Fundraise in Uncertain Times: Innovate Finance. More information [here](#).

Friday 22nd May. The future of Cities after Coronavirus with London Car Free Day, Habidatum, Jacobs and Future Fox. More information [here](#).

Friday 5th June. The future of traffic-free mega cities: London, Lagos & Mexico City. Sign up [here](#).



Cross River Partnership is an alliance of Angel London, Better Bankside BID, Brixton BID, Cadogan, Camden Town Unlimited BID, Cheapside Initiative, City of Westminster, City of London Corporation, Euston Town BID, Greater London Authority, Groundwork London, Hammersmith London BID, Hatton Garden BID, London and Partners, London Borough of Camden, London Borough of Islington, London Borough of Lambeth, London Borough of Lewisham, London Borough of Southwark, London Borough of Wandsworth, Marble Arch BID, Network Rail, Paddington BID, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, South Bank BID, Team London Bridge BID, The Fitzrovia Partnership BID, The Northbank BID, Transport for London, Vauxhall One BID, Victoria BID.

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