



## LEZ - Cleaner Air for Greater London

**H**aving been born and raised in West Central London and living near the Edgware Road, I have always been concerned about the high levels of air pollution rates in my local area. Each year, since 2000, Edgware Road and Baker Street have featured on the list of most polluted London sites.

As a concerned resident and Deputy Chair of the Assembly Environment Committee, I more than welcome the introduction of London's Low Emission Zone (LEZ). This scheme will see the most polluting vehicles being charged for driving in London.



*On Tower Bridge with the remote sensing device to tests vehicle emissions*

From February onwards, diesel-engined lorries of over 1200 tonnes in weight that fail to meet the required emissions standard will be charged to enter Greater London. From summer 2008, buses, coaches and all lorries over 3,5 tonnes will be included in the scheme. Large vans and minibuses will be covered by the LEZ from October 2010.

curred as a result in 2005. The fact that 75% of Londoners support the introduction of the LEZ shows that most Londoners recognise something needs to be done to improve the air quality in our city.

Air pollution has many negative effects on people's health. In London, which has the worst air pollution in the UK, an estimated 1000 premature deaths and a similar number of hospital emissions oc-

For further information about the LEZ scheme you can consult the information leaflet on: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/LEZ/LEZ->



*Murad at the air pollution monitoring station on Marylebone Road*

## Fire stations visits

As a member of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA), I visited local Fire Stations in Chelsea, Hammersmith, Knightsbridge and Euston.

It was good to meet all the Borough Commanders as well as the area and station managers and hear about the work they do and the different issues at stake for local fire services.



*At Hammersmith Fire Station with Group Manager Steve Lumb*

I was particularly impressed by the state of

the art Hammersmith Fire & Community Safety Centre. The building is open to members of the public who want information on fire safety and hosts meetings by community groups.

## £25 Congestion Charge for 'Chelsea Tractors'

**This month, the consultation on the proposed emissions related congestion charging closed. The scheme aims to discourage the use of the highest CO2 emitting cars from entering the zone.**

Under the new rules, there will be a £25 charge for cars that emit 226 grams of CO2 or more per km. Among the cars that fall into this category are SUVs or so-called 'Chelsea tractors'.

The proposals are good news for owners of smaller cars with low CO2 emissions that meet the

Euro 4 standard for air quality. TfL, on behalf of the Mayor, has proposed a 100% discount on the Congestion charge for such cars.

I certainly welcome the proposal to increase congestion charge for gas guzzling 4x4s, as I have always believed them to pose a serious threat to the environment as well as pedestrian and child safety.

Driving a Chelsea tractor in a city environment is completely unnecessary and I am hoping that this move will lead to more people opting for smaller and more eco-friendly cars.



*Murad in an electric car at the 2007 London Transport Emissions conference at City Hall*

## A Question of Sports Travel

**O**n Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, I launched a report on behalf of the Assembly Transport Committee that investigated the problems encountered by sports fans when travelling to and from stadiums on match days.

The report compares the transport situation at a number of London stadiums such as Wembley, Emirates, White Hart Lane and Upton Park. Many fans leave the stadium before the match ends to try and get home at a reasonable time. What this report highlights is the transport problems arising at many of the London grounds can easily be avoided.

The situation would certainly improve if stadium owners would be willing to take more responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of both their fans and the immediate neighbourhood surrounding their ground. Their responsibility should not just stop at the stadium gate.

The report also recommends that the Mayor should use his increased planning

powers to ensure that transport considerations are fully taken into account when new or expanded stadiums are being proposed.

Sports fans more often remember the uncomfortable journey home rather than the actual match. I am hoping that if the recommendations of the report are adopted, the whole experience will be a more pleasant one.

You can access the report via [http://www.london.gov.uk/assembly/reports/transport/sports\\_travel.rtf](http://www.london.gov.uk/assembly/reports/transport/sports_travel.rtf)



*West Ham fans travelling to a home match*

## What does the future hold for street markets in London?

**A few months ago, I suggested that the Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee should investigate the current state of London's markets. The Committee picked up on that idea and has launched a scrutiny into the future of markets in the capital.**



*Murad with one of the stall holders at Shepherd's Bush Market*

The investigation will focus on questions such as: How have markets changed over the past ten years; how do they cope with problems such as parking and transport or compe-

tion from supermarkets and illegal traders and what is good about our markets?

As part of the investigation, the Committee visited Shepherd's Bush Market where we spoke to traders about the current state the market is in and how they would like to see the market developing in the future.

The EDCST Committee aims to finalise its market investigation early next year. If you wish to contribute your views please e-mail [markets@london.gov.uk](mailto:markets@london.gov.uk).

## Thames Clean-up

**Last month, I was among a large number of volunteers joining Thames 21 to clean up the Thames at the Newcastle draw dock on the Isle of Dogs.**



*Murad cleaning up the Thames with other volunteers and Thames 21*

Thames 21 is an environmental charity who clean up London's neglected and littered waterways. Every year, thousands of Londoners volunteer in one of the many clean ups organised by Thames 21. As Chair of the London Waterways Commission, I enjoyed being along the riverside with people who have similar concerns about the amounts of litter in London's waterways. I have now seen first hand the damage that plastic bags can do to the foreshore of the Thames and the sooner they are banned the better.

I think the organisation is doing a great job in cleaning up waterside grot-spots, removing graffiti and creating new habitats for wildlife and I hope more people will join them during one of their clean ups. Find out how you can actively participate via their website:

<http://www.thames21.org.uk>

## Contact me...

If you would like to raise an issue about life in London or invite me to your local group or campaign meeting then please do get in touch via:

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