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TFL IS LAUNCHING THE FINAL PHASE OF ITS PLAN TO MAKE BATTERSEA BRIDGE SAFER. ROB MCGIBBON, WHO STARTED THE CAMPAIGN, TELLS ALICE CAIRNS MORE

# The bridge warrior

MY CAMPAIGN STARTED two years ago, after I witnessed the death of Jack Ryan on Battersea Bridge on January 13, 2021. I was only a few metres away and it was deeply shocking – something that I will never, ever, forget.

I've lived in Chelsea since 1995 and I'm passionate about the area. I wanted to make a positive change, so that weekend I decided to launch a campaign and start a petition. Andy Byford, the commissioner of TFL at that time, met me at the bridge, and I told him what had happened to Jack and why I felt there needed to be change. My philosophy has always been that if I don't like what I see in my local area, I try to make a difference.

Within 10 months, a new green-man pedestrian-crossing had been installed on Battersea Bridge. That's been an incredible change, and I believe it has already prevented further accidents. Now, phase two – the final phase – is starting. A consultation process has begun and runs until January

24, with locals invited to have their say on how TFL and Kensington and Chelsea Council should spend the £1.4 million that has been ring fenced for Battersea Bridge. I'm really appealing to people not just to ignore it and get side-tracked, but to send an email and some feedback, to get involved.

I'm an optimist by nature, and I always think that rather than sitting around complaining about how sad everything is, it's better to try to make a difference. This small campaign has already brought so many people together – residents, families, residents' groups, councillors and TFL workers. It just goes to show that if you can be bothered to try and make a difference to your local community, however small or however big, it can happen.

Chelsea is an engaged community. We care. I know we can achieve a lot if we put our minds to it.

*To have your say, visit [haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/batterseabridge](https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/batterseabridge)*