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v3.0	?	
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**Committee:**

**HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

**Above**  **Below**   
**Confidential Line**

**Date:**

**3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2003**

<b>Report Title :</b>	<b>SHREE SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, WILLESDEN – PETITION REQUESTING LIFTING OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS</b>
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**Consultation :** Please note that TEN Working Days should normally be allowed for both internal department and external consultation. If no comments are received by that time, it will be assumed that the report is agreed.

Draft sent to	Date	Agreed by	Date	Notes

**List of attachments**

File Names	Version / Date Drafted	Notes

## LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

**HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE  
3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2003**

REPORT NO : 2/3

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

FOR INFORMATION / ACTION

NAME OF WARD  
All Wards**REPORT TITLE : SHREE SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, WILLESDEN –  
PETITION REQUESTING LIFTING OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS****1.0 SUMMARY**

- 1.1. A petition was received from the Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Willesden requesting the lifting of all parking restrictions around the temple, on at least five named days every year. This would allow worshippers to visit the temple during Hindu New Years Day, Diwali, Ramnavmi, Janmastmi and Patotsav.
- 1.2. This Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2003 approved a report which authorises officers to implement concessions outside religious premises to enable members of the congregation to park in the vicinity of their places of worship
- 1.3. The parking concessions as authorised by this Committee requires the alteration of Traffic Management Orders. These alterations will be undertaken once funding becomes available

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee notes the petition received from the Shree Swaminarayan Temple requesting the lifting of the parking restrictions around the temple, a copy of the petition is attached as Appendix A.
- 2.2 The Committee notes that the request is outside the approved concessions, agreed by the Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2003, and instructs officers to inform the Temple that their request unfortunately cannot be approved.
- 2.3 The Committee instruct the Director of Transportation to organise a meeting with the Temple, and representatives of the Metropolitan Police to discuss the parking issues and other similar traffic management problems in and around the Shree Swaminarayan Temple in order to seek a way forward, if possible. Local Councillors will be notified of the meeting.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The parking concessions authorised by this Committee in January 2003 may have a small effect on the Council's income from its Parking Account. However, the overall benefit of providing concessions to worshippers in areas on religious organisations outweigh any negative impact that may have on the parking charges.

## **4.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The parking concessions as authorised by this Committee require the alteration of the Traffic Management Orders, using existing staffing resources from both Transportation Service Unit and StreetCare. These alterations are currently underway and staff are hoping to complete such concessions very soon.

## **5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Controlled Parking Schemes, generally accord with both national and local policies aimed to restrain car usage and journeys.

## **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The parking concessions proposed by the petitioners would require alterations to the current Traffic Management Orders under sections 45, 46 and 46a of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The statutory process is set out by the Secretary of State in regulations. If the petitioners request does not fall within the previously agreed criteria set out by the committee it is reasonable to refuse to grant their request.

## **7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The concessions authorised to religious organisations, was considered as part of a wider policy which includes the encouragement of adopting a Travel Plan by such organisations. This is in line with the Mayor's Transportation Strategy and Government policies and advice in respect of this issue.

## **8.0 DETAIL**

- 8.1 In March 2003 a petition in excess of 50 verified signatures was received from the worshippers at Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Willesden, requesting the lifting of parking restrictions around the temple, at least on the following five days:

- Hindu New Years Day (October/November)
- Diwali (October/November)
- Ramnavmi (April)
- Janmastmi (August)
- Patotsav – Temple Anniversary (July)

- 8.2 Officers have carefully considered the content of the petition and advise the Committee that parking outside religious organisations is a complex issue that was considered in some detail, late last year. A survey of all London Boroughs was carried out to identify any concessions offered by any of the other London Boroughs to assist worshippers to park outside religious organisations. The outcome of the investigation was reported to the Highways Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2003.
- 8.3 The Committee instructed officers to:
- Investigate and provide shared use parking spaces (Resident/P&D) adjacent to the place of worship.
  - Investigate the provision of dedicated disabled parking spaces outside the place of worship
  - Carry out additional consultation at the place of worship at the design stage and introduce measures to assist worshippers to park where feasible.
  - Review current CPZ schemes where places of worship are located with a view to implement the above measures as soon as possible.
  - Suspend parking enforcement adjacent to the place of worship where funerals are taking place.
  - Offer Essential Service permit to the head of the organisation who require to carry out their religious responsibilities within the community with up to maximum of 2 permits per organisation.
- 8.4 By authorising such concessions, the Committee has introduced a system which, incidentally is not offered by any other London Boroughs. This system minimises the negative impact on worshippers wishing to park near their place of worship.
- 8.5 Any further concessions particularly on festive and religious occasions which involve the lifting of parking restrictions outside the Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Willesden, will have a major impact on parking in the area and will certainly undermine the Council's policy and the Mayor's policy on parking. Also it will defeat the original objective on introducing controlled parking schemes in these area.
- 8.6 It is suggested that the Director of Transportation meets representatives from the Temple together with a representative from the Metropolitan Police, to discuss the parking and associated traffic management problems that exist outside the Temple. Local Council Members will be notified of the meeting and will also be advised of the outcome of the discussion.
- 8.7 As part of the agenda for this meeting officers intend to advise the Temple to adopt a Green Travel Plan which will be prepared by representatives from the Temple assisted by officers from the Council. The Travel Plan will enable the Temple to advise worshippers to use alternative modes of transport other than cars.

9 **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 9.1 Highways Committee 27<sup>th</sup> January 2003  
A Proposed Parking Concession and Increase in Parking Charges, Borough-Wide
- 9.2 Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Qassim Kazaz, Transportation Service Unit, Brent House, 349 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6BZ, Telephone: 020 8937 5127

**Richard Saunders**  
**Director of Environmental Services**