

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Meeting of Highways Committee 22nd March 2005

Report from the Director of Environment

For information

Wards affected:

Preston

Report Title:	Petition from residents of Rydal Gardens
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1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the Highways Committee of a petition received from some residents of Rydal Gardens regarding the poor condition of the carriageway in their road.
- 1.2 The petition contains in excess of 50 signatures, and the committee is asked to consider the issue raised and the response of the Director of Environment to them.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Highways Committee note the concerns raised by the petitioners.
- 2.2 That the Highways Committee agree the content of the response provided by the Director of Transportation to the petitioner, and that he be advised of the Committee's recommendation.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 A letter was received from Mr Clifford Lock on 11 February, enclosing a petition signed by some residents of Rydal Gardens.
- 3.2 The petition stated the following:- "We the undersigned wish to bring to the urgent attention of Brent Council the extremely bad condition of the

road surface in Rydal Gardens, Wembley. The surface is well overdue for extensive maintenance'

- 3.3. A letter was sent to Mr Lock from the Director of Transportation on 28 February, which is enclosed as Appendix 'A'. Members will see from the letter that the road in question, Rydal Gardens, has already been surveyed and prioritised for resurfacing. If the programme of works for 2005/06 is approved by The Executive, it is expected that the resurfacing will take place between June and November 2005.

4.0 Response from the Director of Environment

- 4.1 See appendix 'A'

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report. Rydal Gardens had already been selected as a road that would be recommended for resurfacing before the petition was received. Subject to the recommendation to resurface Rydal Gardens being approved by The Executive on 12 April 2005, the cost of doing so will be borne by the capital and revenue budgets available for the highway maintenance major works programme for 2005/06.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Council has a legal responsibility to maintain and keep in good repair the public highway at Rydal Gardens and the Council would be liable in damages for failing to maintain it in a fit condition. The Council's duty however is limited to maintaining this carriageway to a safe and satisfactory standard for the purposes of ordinary traffic but not further or otherwise. The proposed resurfacing works would be sufficient to discharge the Council's obligations in this respect.

7.0 Diversity Implications

- 7.1 This Report has been screened by officers who have assessed that there are no diversity implications arising from this report.

8.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 8.1 The resurfacing work, if approved, will be carried out by staff in the Transportation Service Unit, using term contractors.

9.0 Environmental Implications

- 9.1 Carriageway upgrades, such as the one proposed for Rydal Gardens , are one of the characteristic features designed to enhance the overall street scene. Additionally, improvements to the condition of the carriageway, will improve road safety and help reduce the incidence of claims for personal damage.

Background Papers

Letter and petition from residents in Rydal Gardens received on 11 February 2005.

Letter from Phil Rankmore to Mr Lock dated 28 February.

Contact Officers

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Department (020 8937 5128)

Chris Margetts (Acting Head of Highway Maintenance), Environmental
Services Department (020 8937 5113)

Richard Saunders
Director of Environment

Chris Margetts
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Appendix 'A'

Dear Mr Lock

Re: Petition concerning condition of the road surface in Rydal Gardens, Wembley

I refer to the letter Lorraine Brook in Democratic Services sent to you on 15 February 2005. In her letter, Ms Brook informed you that the petition you have submitted, is to be considered at the Highway Committee meeting due to be held on 22 March 2005.

You may recall that when you met Chris Margetts, acting head of highway maintenance, last summer, he explained to you the process whereby borough roads, such as Rydal Gardens, are selected for resurfacing each year. I confirmed to you that Rydal Gardens would be taken into account, when determining the roads to be resurfaced during 2005/06. I explained to you at our meeting, that I would not be in a position to confirm whether Rydal Gardens had or had not been included in this programme, until The Executive had approved the highway maintenance major works programme for 2005/06, which would be sometime in March / April 2005.

The findings of an annual independent structural condition survey are used to determine the vast majority of borough roads to be resurfaced each year. However, it has been recognised that concrete roads, such as Rydal Gardens, would not feature in the top tier for defectiveness rating purposes, as the structural condition of the concrete roads within the borough is generally sound.

However, the major problem affecting concrete roads in Brent, is the bituminous macadam overlay that has been in place for some 30 years, has worn away in many places revealing sections of the concrete base. From a highway engineering perspective, it is recognised that long term exposure of the base will ultimately result in frost / rain eroding the concrete slabs and joints. This, in turn, would result in a costly road reconstruction programme in the future.

To address this problem, a small proportion of our budget for resurfacing borough roads in 2004/05, was set aside to resurface some of the worst affected concrete roads. It is our intention to do likewise in 2005/06. At my behest, a senior highway engineer undertook, in December 2004, a visual survey of concrete roads in the borough, and drew up a prioritisation list based on the overall condition of the roads that had been inspected. These survey findings showed Rydal Gardens to have the second highest defectiveness rating.

Accordingly, in the highway maintenance major works programme for 2005/06 committee report I am currently preparing, Rydal Gardens has been included in the section pertaining to concrete roads to be resurfaced. The report is time-tabled to be considered by The Executive at their meeting on 12 April 2005.

In the event that committee approval is forthcoming, I would expect Rydal Gardens to be resurfaced some time between June and November of this year.

I hope this letter will prove useful in providing you with an update of developments since we met. Copies of this letter will be made available to members of the Highways Committee, and will form the basis of our response to your petition.

Yours sincerely

Phil Rankmore
Director of Transportation