

MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 25th May 2005 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Jones (Chair) and Councillors Beswick, Fox and R S Patel.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kagan.

Councillor Arnold also attended the meeting.

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Nominations were invited for the position of Chair of the Highways Committee for the Municipal Year 2005/2006. Councillor Jones was proposed and seconded. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED:-

that Councillor Jones be elected Chair of the Highways Committee for the Municipal Year 2005/2006.

Nominations were then invited for the position of Vice Chair of the Highways Committee for the Municipal Year 2005/2006. Councillor Kagan was proposed and seconded. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED:-

that Councillor Kagan be elected Vice Chair of the Highways Committee for the Municipal Year 2005/2006.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 22nd March 2005

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of meeting of the Highways Committee held on 22nd March 2005 be received and approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Deputations

None

6. Petitions

The Committee noted that Democratic Services had received the following petitions containing in excess of 50 signatures.

(a) **Request for Home Zones in Hazelmere, Kenilworth, Priory Park and Tennyson Roads**

This petition requested that local streets be made safe for children to play by creating home zones for the above roads.

Ms Josie Warshaw, in representing the petitioners, stated that the area of inclusion proposed for a Home Zones scheme had increased to 11 streets since the petition had been submitted. She believed that 2 earlier applications from the local authority to obtain Transport for London (TfL) funding for such a scheme had failed due to the unsuitability of the proposed area, Priory Park Road. She believed that the benefits of a Home Zone scheme would include slowing down traffic and providing recreational areas for children and for community events. Members heard that a Residents' Association had recently been formed which intended to produce newsletters and organise fundraising events with the assistance of an organisation called London Play who would also undertake a local consultation exercise. Ms Warshaw concluded by saying that as the area had a high proportion of children and housing was due to increase, that a Home Zone scheme would be ideal in providing the necessary playing facilities.

In reply to queries from Councillor Fox, Ms Warshaw confirmed that the map in the report was no longer valid as the area identified by residents for a Home Zone scheme had significantly increased and that she felt the earlier funding bids had been unsuccessful because the proposals had been limited to include 1 road.

In reply to the issues raised, Phil Rankmore (Director of Transportation) stressed Transportation Unit's willingness to act as an information resource to residents and to meet with them to discuss issues concerning highways and traffic issues relevant to the Home Zone scheme.

Mr Satnam Sahota (Head of Traffic Management) confirmed that the roads listed in the report, along with Glengall Road, had been listed in the petition for inclusion in the request for a Home Zone area. Members heard that previous bids for funding of such schemes were small both in terms of the area proposed and the level of funding that had been requested. Mr Sahota stated that a bid for funding from TfL could be undertaken for 2006-2007, however he advised Members that the residents' request would require a much higher level of funding than previous schemes that had been approved by

TfL and therefore it was likely that if such a scheme was approved, would be implemented in phases over several years. He also informed Members that Section 106 funding for a local development could be used for the investigation and preliminary design of a Home Zone.

The Chair acknowledged that such a scheme would be likely to be implemented in phases because of the scale the scheme and the expenditure involved.

(b) **Request for Safe Crossing outside Christchurch School, Willesden Lane**

A petition sent by Sarah Teather MP on behalf of local residents requested that:-

“We, the undersigned, call on Brent Council to provide a safe crossing outside Christchurch School on Willesden Lane.”

Mrs Patrica Katarina, representing the views of the petitioners, stated that a large number of pedestrians, in particular children, crossed the section of Willesden Lane where the school was located. She thanked officers for providing a School Crossing Patrol Officer, but she felt that this only offered a part solution to the problem and suggested that a formal crossing point was required to slow traffic speed. She commented that there were insufficient traffic signs along this stretch of road, adding that 1 sign's location was obscured by a bus stop. She suggested that a parking control scheme could benefit the road, especially as many parents drove to the school because of its large catchment area. She also requested that a review of the locations of parking spaces and bus stops be undertaken and that a speed restriction be imposed on this section of Willesden Lane.

In reply to queries from the Chair, Mrs Katarina stated that a crossing further down the road was used but pedestrians tended to cross nearer the school. Mrs Katarina agreed that a School Crossing Patrol Officer was a good idea, however she felt that the section of road where they would be situated was rarely crossed by pedestrians.

Councillor Fox suggested that the school could benefit by joining the Safer Routes to School Scheme and that it should produce its own travel plan to help reduce accident rates.

In reply to the issues raised, Mr Rankmore advised Members that investigations could be undertaken concerning positioning of road signs and speeding traffic. He stated that a survey would need to be undertaken to determine whether a zebra crossing was required,

adding that he believed a School Patrol Crossing Officer was a more appropriate solution as they would be employed to assist crossing at peak times which occurred during school opening and closing hours. He suggested that parents could also be encouraged to park in streets further away from the school.

7. Petition – Request for Home Zone at Hazelmere Road, Kenilworth Road, Tennyson Road and Priory Park Road, NW6

The Committee had before them a report requesting approval for officers to investigate the issues raised in the petition.

Mr Sahota drew Members' attention to the report that provided details of the requests made by the petitioners and officers' responses to them.

Councillor Arnold, speaking in her capacity as Ward Councillor for this item, felt that a Home Zone scheme represented an opportunity to support the needs of the local community and environment and in particular improve facilities for young people, especially as it would provide playing areas for children which she believed were lacking in the area. She suggested that a Home Zone scheme would provide an effective solution to the challenges the area was facing, which included the introduction of a number of additional residential units and a new college and she expressed her wish that funding could be obtained for the scheme.

The Chair advised Councillor Arnold that if funding was secured for a Home Zone scheme or similar it was likely that it would be implemented in phases. The Chair commented that discussions between residents, residents associations, London Play and officers concerning details of the scheme would be desirable.

Councillor Beswick stressed the importance of relevant partners working together to discuss a Home Zone scheme and he added that he felt it was appropriate that the scheme included a larger area, as outlined by Ms Warshaw, than was originally proposed.

Councillor Fox enquired why 2 previous bids for a Home Zone style scheme had failed.

In reply to Councillor Fox's query, Mr Rankmore stated that every effort was made to ensure that the 2 previous bids were within TfL guidelines, however he advised Members that TfL received a large amount of bids for such schemes and he added that a bid could be submitted in the summer of this year if this was the Committee's wish. Mr Sahota stated that he could look at the past successful bids of other London boroughs to help increase the prospects of obtaining funding for a Home Zones or similar scheme.

Members agreed that a bid be made during the summer of this year to seek funding from TfL for a Home Zone scheme in the area requested by Ms Warshaw.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the petition be noted and officers be instructed to investigate further the petitioners request as detailed at items 3.8 and 3.9 of the report with a view to make a bid for funding from Transport for London and to report back to a future meeting of this Committee with their findings; and
- (ii) that officers notify petitioners of this decision

8. Petition – Request for Pedestrian Crossing Facility outside Christchurch School, Willesden Lane, NW6

The Committee had before them a report informing them on the outcome of officers' investigations of a petition received from the Member of Parliament for Brent East on behalf of Christchurch School, Willesden Lane, NW6 requesting a pedestrian crossing opposite the school. Mr Sahota introduced the report and drew Members' attention to the recommendations contained herein.

Members agreed that the school be advised of the Safer Routes to Schools programme.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the petition be noted;
- (ii) that it be agreed that a formal crossing facility outside Christchurch School is not warranted at this stage and therefore that officers do not proceed with the provision of a formal crossing facility;
- (iii) that Christchurch School be advised about the Safer Routes to Schools programme; and
- (iv) that officers notify the petition organiser of these decisions

9. Progress Report on Controlled Parking Zones Programme

The Committee received a report informing them of the progress with the programme of implementation of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) in Brent since the report to the last meeting of the Committee in March 2005.

In introducing the report, Mr Sahota advised Members of an amendment to recommendation (i) to defer any decision until after further investigation

had been undertaken and, further to requests from residents, to add a recommendation to review the operational hours of Barham Car Park.

Mrs Bridie Walsh, speaking on behalf of residents of Charlton Road, Manor Park Road and Tavistock Road, asserted that the introduction of different operational times for CPZs in Harlesden was having a detrimental effect on the quality of life in the area. She described some of the problems that were being experienced, including shoppers using parking spaces along Tavistock Road, double parking occurring in the High Street and a lack of parking spaces for residents in Charlton Road and Manor Park Road. She requested that a single CPZ scheme with uniform operational times be introduced for the roads she represented and to additionally include Burns Road and Crownhill Road.

In reply to a query from the Chair, Mrs Walsh felt that Tavistock Road's dual use parking scheme for residents and shoppers did not provide sufficient parking spaces for residents.

The Chair acknowledged the issues raised by Mrs Walsh and agreed that action was required to help solve the problems being experienced.

In response to the comments from Mrs Walsh and the Chair, Mr Sahota advised Members that Tavistock Road was being reviewed as part of the the Harlesden Town Centre Regeneration Programme and that attempts would be made to encourage visitors to the area to use the public car park. He confirmed that consultation regarding parking would be undertaken within 2 weeks for Charlton Road and within a few weeks for Manor Park Road. He added that the 3 CPZs in Harlesden would need to be reviewed before any decision could be made on changing operational times.

The Chair requested that progress concerning parking problems in the Harlesden area be prioritised and Mr Sahota agreed to contact Mrs Walsh with regard to this.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the outcome of the review of Zone MC CPZ be noted and the inclusion of Keyes and Hoveden Roads in Zone MA CPZ with operational hours of 10 am to 9 pm, Monday to Saturday be deferred for further consideration;
- (ii) that it be agreed that officers consult with residents of Ridley Road, Harlesden, with a view to be included in Zone HW CPZ, and if majority support is identified to include Ridley Road in the statutory consultation for the extension of Zone HW;
- (iii) that the removal of sections of 'yellow line' waiting restrictions in Burns Road (Zone HW) as shown at Appendix A to the report to increase on-street parking capacity be approved; and

(iv) that the operational hours of Barham Car Park be reviewed

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Highways Committee would take place on Wednesday, 13th July 2005.

11. **Any Other Urgent Business**

None

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm.

L JONES
Chair