



## Overview & Scrutiny Committee 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009

### Report from the Director of Policy & Regeneration

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

## Tubbs Road Councillor Call for Action

### 1.0 Tubbs Road Councillor Call for Action

- 1.1 At its meeting in October 2009, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to look in more detail at the councillor call for action submitted by Councillor James Powney in relation to the traffic issues at Tubbs Road, Kensal Green Ward.
- 1.2 Members will recall that the councillor call for action was submitted because Councillor Powney wanted members to consider solutions to:
- The traffic congestion, in what is a narrow, largely residential street.
  - The air pollution, associated with the large volume of traffic.
  - Concerns about road safety.
- 1.3 Councillor Powney and local residents who've made representation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would like Tubbs Road downgraded from an A road to a B road. They would like drivers to be stopped from turning left into Old Oak Lane from Tubbs Road, which would take away one of the incentives to use it as a cut through. A member of the public who attended Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2009 also suggested that drivers are prevented from turning right into Tubbs Road from High Street Harlesden.
- 1.4 Since the Committee last met, a site visit has taken place at Tubbs Road so that members could see the scale of the problems for themselves. The visit took place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30am. It was deliberately scheduled during rush hour so the situation could be observed at a busy time of day. Councillors Lesley Jones, Bobby Thomas, James Powney and Bertha Joseph attended the site visit, along with Tim Jackson, Director of Transportation, Andrew Davies, Policy and Performance Officer and two local residents. The main observations were:
- Significant numbers of cars were turning right from Furness Road on to High Street Harlesden and then left into Tubbs Road, suggesting that the route is

being used as a cut through towards the A40, avoiding the Harlesden one-way system.

- Vehicles are regularly getting stuck at the point in Tubbs Road where it narrows to only allow vehicles less than 6'-6" to pass. The group saw one lorry having to turn around at this point and a number of vans struggling to get through the traffic calming measures. Lorries approaching Old Oak Lane from Tubbs Road have to turn up into Nightingale Road where the road narrows, because they are not able to get through to narrowest point in Tubbs Road. The street furniture at the road narrowing was damaged where it had been hit by vehicles. This can be seen in the photographs taken on the day (which will be available at the committee meeting).
- Congestion rather than speed appeared to be the main issue. The traffic was building up at the junction between Tubbs Road and Old Oak Lane. Most of the traffic observed on the visit was turning left towards the A40 at Old Oak Lane, rather than right towards Harlesden.
- The idea of stopping left turns at the junction of Tubbs Road and Old Oak Lane may not be workable in practice. People may still turn left, illegally, and it would also be problematic for residents who wanted to turn left when they came out of the street. They would be forced to make a detour through the Harlesden one-way system.
- The Transportation Unit has made a bid to TfL to improve pedestrian facilities at the junction of Tubbs Road and Old Oak Lane. Although safety would be improved for pedestrians, congestion could increase if a Pelican crossing was introduced as traffic would be held in Tubbs Road for longer than is the case at the moment. A second bid has been made to improve the public realm in Harlesden which could have an impact on the road layout.
- The point was made that whatever is done to improve traffic congestion in Tubbs Road and Nightingale Road (the neighbouring street) it would have a knock on effect in the surrounding area. Careful thought will have to be made to any possible solutions.

1.5 Photographs from the site visit will be available for the councillors to consider at the committee meeting.

1.6 The problems at Tubbs Road have been thoroughly reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, both at the committee meeting in October and also on the site visit. Members must now focus on possible solutions that could be recommended to improve the traffic congestion in Tubbs Road. The committee does have to bear in mind that it cannot just consider Tubbs Road in isolation, but has to look at the problem in the context of the wider road network in the Harlesden area.

1.7 Tim Jackson, Director of Transportation plus a representative from TfL have been invited to attend the committee meeting for the discussion on this item. A briefing note on the issues relating to Tubbs Road, prepared by Tim Jackson, is also included as an appendix to this covering report. Members should ask them for their views on this problem to see what ideas have been considered for this part of the borough.

1.8 If the committee makes recommendations on this issue they will be passed to the council's Executive and to TfL for consideration. Follow up on the recommendations will be carried out in 6 and 12 months time to check on progress.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- (i) Consider the briefing paper from Tim Jackson on the traffic issues at Tubbs Road.
- (ii). Question officers from the council's Transportation Unit and TfL on possible solutions to the traffic issues in Tubbs Road and Nightingale Road.
- (iii) Decide whether it wishes to make any recommendations to the council's Executive and TfL on this issue, taking into account the impact that solutions for Tubbs Road and Nightingale Road could have on the surrounding area.

### **3.0 Financial Implications**

3.1 None

### **4.0 Legal Implications**

4.1 None

### **5.0 Diversity Implications**

5.1 None

### **6.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

6.1 None

#### **Contact Officers**

Andrew Davies, Policy and Performance Officer  
Tel – 020 8937 1609  
Email – [Andrew.davies@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.davies@brent.gov.uk)

Phil Newby, Director of Policy and Regeneration  
Tel – 020 8937 1032  
Email – [phil.newby@brent.gov.uk](mailto:phil.newby@brent.gov.uk)