



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

DRAFT EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 9 February 2010 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Jones (Chair), Councillor Castle (Vice Chair) and Councillors Clues and Thomas

Also Present: Councillors Dunwell, John and Powney and Sneddon (Lead Member for Human Resources and Diversity and Local Democracy and Consultation)

Apologies were received from: Councillors Mistry

1. **Willesden Junction Station Councillor Call for Action Request**

Councillor Powney who had requested the councillor call for action, was invited to address the Committee. He referred Members to his main concerns in the report, which included:-

- The poor and dangerous state of Station Approach
- Underuse of Hythe Road public footpath
- Poor management of land around the station leading to environmental health issues and lack of visual amenity.
- Poor maintenance of Harrow Road footpath
- Poor signage

Councillor Powney explained that the reasons for the poor state of Willesden Junction Station and the area around it could partly be attributable to the site occupying land under three London boroughs - Brent, Ealing and Hammersmith and Fulham, and because of a lack of clarity as to who owned particular areas of the site. This included Station Approach, which Councillor Powney understood was likely to be owned by Network Rail, however no response from the company had been received despite repeated requests. He suggested that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF) be approached with a view to setting up a joint task group to look into this matter further and that other organisations such as Network Rail, London Overground and Transport for London (TfL) be requested to attend a meeting and provide an explanation of the poor state of the area and agree what action needed to be taken.

During discussion, Councillor Thomas commented that the issue could be pursued through both this Committee and LBHF's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and he asked whether funding issues were precluding Neighbourhood Working from taking action. Councillor Clues felt there was some value in taking joint action with

LBHF, however he did not think it was necessary to be pursued through the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Chair commented that she understood that LBHF did not operate task groups, however she agreed that it would be useful for LBHF to be involved. Members then agreed to her suggestion that ways of working with LBHF be considered to pursue this issue, that Environmental Services approach Network Rail to ascertain if they own Station Approach and that Neighbourhood Working be asked to investigate the possibility of taking action.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Executive agree that ways of working with the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to take action to improve the area in and around Willesden Junction Station be considered;
- (ii) that the Executive agree that Environmental Services be requested to approach Network Rail to ascertain whether Network Rail own Station Approach; and
- (iii) that the Executive agree that the Neighbourhood Working Team be asked to consider taking action to assist in improving the area in and around Willesden Junction Station.