



Brent

Highways Committee
20 October 2014

Report from the Head of Transportation

For Action

Wards Affected:
Brondesbury Park

Petition objecting to the proposed parking restriction changes in zone MA.

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report informs the committee of a petition received from the Shree Swaminarayan Temple objecting to the proposed amendments to parking restrictions in zone MA controlled parking zone (CPZ).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee notes the contents of the petition and the results of officers investigations into parking issues in the area.

2.2 That the Committee instructs officers to progress with the informal and statutory consultation of the proposed no waiting 'at any time' restrictions (double yellow lines) at all junctions within the MA zone, and to change the existing single yellow lines to double yellow lines in Willesden Lane from the junction of Deerhurst Road to the northwest side of the Willesden Lane, and on Lydford Road between Chatsworth Road and Dartford Road.

2.3 That the Committee instructs officers to abandon the previous proposals to extend the parking restrictions in Chatsworth Road and to continue to meet with Temple representatives and local residents to develop solutions to parking issues that are acceptable to all parties.

2.4 That, subject to the outcome of further informal and statutory consultation and consideration of objections and representations, the committee instructs the Head of Transportation to amend the necessary Traffic Management Orders and implement amendments to parking restrictions using delegated authority, or to report back to the Highways committee if objections are substantial.

- 2.5 That officers continue to liaise with the Temple on temporary traffic management and parking arrangements for religious events and assist in developing and/or reviewing their travel Plan.
- 2.6 That the main petitioner be informed of the outcome of the Highways Committee decision in regard to this matter.

3.0 Details of the Petition

- 3.1 Two petitions have been received from residents and visitors to the Shree Swaminarayan Temple in Willesden Lane, objecting to the proposed changes to zone MA CPZ. The petitions are reported to Committee in accordance with Standing Orders. The first petition has more than 3,200 verified signatures and reads:

“We the undersigned object to the proposed changes published in the local press on 09/01/2014 these being;

- (1) Extension of existing MA CPZ controlled hours from 10am-3pm Monday to Friday, now also proposed to include weekend restrictions of 10am-6pm Saturday and Sunday on parts of Chatsworth Road.*
- (2) Proposed introduction of double yellow lines (No Waiting at Any Time) restriction on Willesden Lane from Mapesbury Rd from the existing part time no waiting restrictions excluding weekends.*

The proposed restricted times are a direct reflection of the times of worship in the temple. The roads on which the changes are being proposed are those immediately in the vicinity of the temple. The proposals will have a detrimental effect on community relations and would adversely affect the right of worshippers attending the temple prayers and taking part in the activities being provided. We feel that it breaches the rights of the worshippers on religious grounds.”

- 3.2 The second petition is an e-petition containing over 950 verified signatures and reads;

“We the undersigned petition the council to stop proposed changes in zone MA CPZ regarding parking and waiting restrictions on Chatsworth Road and Willesden Lane, as set out in the Brent Council notice of 9th January 2014. We hereby object to the proposed changes in zone MA CPZ parking and waiting restrictions on Chatsworth Road and Willesden Lane, as set out in the Brent Council notice of 9th January 2014. The proposed extension of the existing restricted parking times are directly targeting worshippers attending the Shree Swaminarayan Temple, 220-222 Willesden Lane, NW2 5RG (the “Temple”). The roads upon which the changes are being proposed are those immediately in the vicinity of the Temple. The Temple has been operating at this location for over 38 years. Throughout these years the Temple has had a very cordial relationship with its neighbours and the local community and it is our intention to continue with the same relationship. Introduction of the above changes will have an adverse effect on the worshipper’s rights to attend and take part in the Temple services currently being provided, and

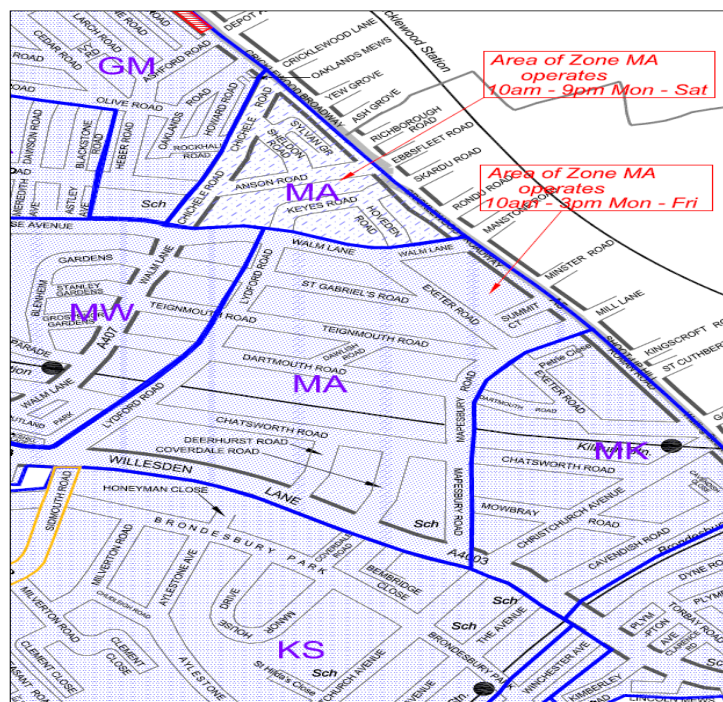
strongly feel will cause hardship and pain to the congregation and the Brent community.

The proposed changes are also without rationale as they do not comply with the original objective of the controlled parking zone within the MA area. Before introducing these restrictions Brent Council must explain the reason and the need to extend these restrictions within this sub-section of roads and how it meets the original objective to its residents, us the undersigned. Furthermore these measures are extremely arbitrary, discriminatory, stringent, unreasonable and unnecessary. They will have a detrimental and discriminatory effect on community relations.'

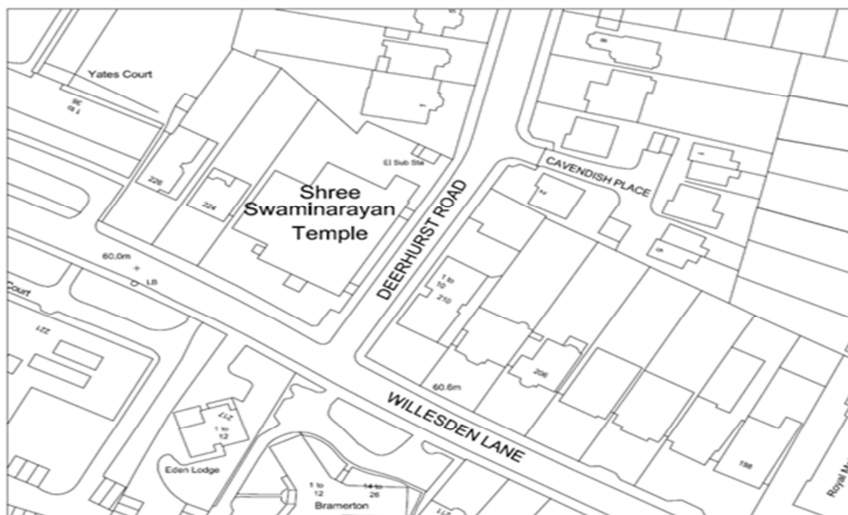
3.3 Copies of these petitions are available for inspection by Members of the Highways Committee.

4.0 Background

4.1 The MA Controlled Parking Zone was implemented in February 2000 in response to demands from local residents with the objective of introducing controls to address on-street-parking pressure caused by visitors to the area, including commuters. The MA zone operates on Monday to Friday from 10am to 3pm, except for an area to the north of Walm Lane which operates Monday to Saturday 10am to 9pm, and is closer to the busy Cricklewood Broadway. It lies within the Brondesbury Park ward and is bounded by Willesden Lane to its south, Lydford Road to the west, Mapesbury Road to the east, and Shoot Up Hill and Walm Lane to the north. The area is primarily residential. The majority of the parking bays in the zone are permit holder only with some shared use bays with a 4 hour maximum stay (for pay and display). Unusually, the majority of junctions in zone MA have been treated with single yellow line restrictions which operate for the same times as the zone (Monday to Friday from 10am to 3pm).



- 4.2 The Shree Swaminarayan Temple is located in Deerhurst Road at the junction with Willesden Lane within zone MA. The site was a church which was converted to a Hindu Temple in 1975. Since this time the growth in patronage led to a 3 storey redevelopment of the site in 1988 to establish it as one of the biggest Hindu Temples in Europe. In addition the Temple has acquired additional properties on Deerhurst Road with the intention of developing a new facility, including accommodation for the elderly and a sports complex.



- 4.3 Hundreds of people often attend the Temple, many of whom are not local and travel from across London and beyond. Prayers are held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday each week and there are other activities such as the Gujarati School and Youth Club. Each summer there are 8 days of events and celebrations for the Mahotsav festival, which generate significant amounts of on-street parking. The Temple are aware of the impact of their activities on the local area and actively engage with Brent Council in managing these events e.g. advertising parking restrictions to their visitors and establishing a small park and ride service for their worshipers from the College of North West London during Mahotsav.
- 4.4 Evidence suggests that, despite the best efforts of the Temple to minimise the impact of worshipers visiting the local area, there is still a high level of on street parking that takes place in the surrounding area on yellow lines restrictions and within existing residential unoccupied parking bays.
- 4.5 In April 2013 the Council's Transportation and parking enforcement officers received correspondence and complaints from local Councillors and residents regarding on-street parking pressure in the MA Zone as a result of increased patronage of the Shree Swaminarayan Temple, particularly during the 25 year anniversary celebrations taking place at the time.
- 4.6 In response to these complaints, a meeting was held on 19 July 2013 with local residents, a representative from the Temple and the Council's parking enforcement team to discuss the regularity and impact of Temple visitors on

parking in the area and the measures that the Temple are taking to try to address this.

4.7 As a result of this meeting, plans detailing proposed amendments to waiting restrictions under the Local Implementation Plan funded waiting and loading reviews programme were prepared by the Interim Team Leader, Project Development, Transportation at the time, which identified lengths of single yellow line for conversion to double yellow lines to resolve the issue of vehicles parking close to junctions (see Appendix A). Proposals to amend the operational times of a number of residents parking bays in Chatsworth Road were also developed following meetings with local residents. Details of these proposals were circulated to the residents who had been in correspondence with the Council, along with the Chatsworth Area Residents Association (CARA). The Chair of the Residents Association undertook to circulate information on the proposed changes, including parking bay operational time extensions, without biased and provide feedback to the Interim Team Leader. Following feedback from the Chair of CARA, the Interim Team Leader, progressed the proposals to the statutory consultation stage, whereby the Council would make amendments to the Traffic Regulatory Order following a notice being advertised in the London Gazette and local press, following consideration of any comments received and approval by the Head of Transportation approval of a delegated authority report. This decision relied mainly on information via the residents association, and the process did not include the usual informal consultation and analysis. This approach was approved by the then Head of Transportation at the time, subject to results of the statutory consultation.

4.8 The proposals were to;

- Replace single yellow lines with double yellow lines at :
 - junction of Deerhurst Road with Chatsworth Road
 - junction of Coverdale Road with Chatsworth Road
 - Junction of Dawlish Road with Teignmouth Road and Dartmouth Road
 - Junction of St. Gabriel's Road with Exeter Road
 - Junction of Walm Lane with Exeter Road.
 - Lydford Road between Chatsworth Road and Dartford Road on the railway bridge
 - Willesden Lane, between Lydford Road and Mapesbury Road
- Apply additional restriction from 10am to 6pm, Saturday to Sunday on Chatsworth Road :
 - to all of the parking places on the north side (approximately 50 spaces)
 - selected spaces on the south side between Deerhurst Road and Coverdale Road.

4.9 The Interim Team Leader agreed to communicate the proposals to the Temple and local residents and advise them that they would be implemented subject to consideration of any representations received during the statutory consultation. The Notice of proposals was advertised in Brent & Kilburn Times and London Gazette on 9th January 2014.

- 4.10 The two petitions were received in response to the statutory consultation.
- 4.11 As the usual informal consultation process was not carried out, and this resulted in two petitions, it is recommended that officers abandon the previous proposals to extend the parking restrictions to residents parking bays in Chatsworth Road and continue to meet with Temple representatives and local residents to develop solutions to parking issues that are acceptable to all parties.
- 4.12 It is also recommended that due to the time elapsed, officers re-consult with Temple representatives and local residents on the proposals in paragraph 4.8 to convert single yellow lines to double yellow line restrictions, to improve road safety and help reduce traffic congestion in the area.
- 4.13 Any changes to any restrictions will be subject to both the informal consultation process and analysis, as well as the statutory consultation process and the decision by the Head of Transportation whether to proceed will be in consideration of the results.
- 4.14 The Highways Committee of 10th October 2013 approved the report titled; Brent Local Implementation Plan and delegated authority to the Head of Transportation to consider any representations or objections from the consultation process and implement the Traffic Management Orders if they are considered insignificant, or if otherwise, refer the decision to the committee.

5.0 Response to the petition

- 5.1 On the 16th February 2014 a letter signed on behalf of the then Lead Member for Highways and Transportation was sent to all the residents of zone MA and the Shree Swaminarayan Temple (see Appendix B). The letter advised the Temple and local residents that the Council sympathises with local residents who wish to park on their roads, particularly within Controlled Parking Zone areas such as this, and that the Council are also mindful of the importance of the Temple to the Hindu community, and that given the contrasting feedback, officers would hold further discussions with the Temple and Chatsworth Road residents to see whether a solution can be found acceptable to all.
- 5.2 On the 4th July 2014 Transportation and Parking enforcement officers met with Temple representatives at the Temple. The meeting was attended by a solicitor acting on the behalf of the Temple. The Temple representatives expressed dissatisfaction with the Councils actions in dealing with complaints arising from the 2013 25th anniversary celebration which attracted around 5,000 visitors. The Temple felt that the complaints from the residents concerning noise pollution and the erection of marquees to the rear of the Temple houses were not justified. The Temple representatives informed the Council officers that some residents had distributed leaflets to encourage other residents in the area to complain to the Council.
- 5.3 Temple representatives were concerned that the proposals described in paragraph 4.8 might still be implemented despite their petition objecting to the proposals.

Officers reassured representatives that the proposals would not be progressed without further consultation, and that further meetings will be arranged to discuss parking issues and develop proposals for changes to parking restrictions that would be acceptable to the Temple and residents association, and that furthermore any subsequent proposals would be subject to the results of further consultation.

- 5.4 The Temple representatives suggested further reduction in the existing CPZ operational times between 10am to 3pm. However, the concerns of residents that any further reduction would create more on street parking pressures were pointed out and the Temple recognised this may cause problems.
- 5.5 Officers also offered to assist the Temple to develop a new Travel Plan and this proposal was welcomed by the Temple.
- 5.6 The Temple agreed that the proposals to change single yellow line restrictions to double yellow line restrictions as requested by residents and described in 4.8 should be progressed for safety reasons.
- 5.7 The Temple explained that they had an extraordinary number of visitors in 2013 to celebrate their 25th year anniversary celebrations. No further major events are planned in the near future apart from the annual Hindu new year celebration (Diwali). However, it was accepted that the Council should be informed of all future planned major events and the Temple would welcome Council support and advice to reduce the risk of congestion, illegal parking, noise pollution etc. which could cause residents to complain.
- 5.8 Traffic management arrangements (e.g. parking bays suspensions, road closures) may be considered for future events, subject to approval of Council officers and the Metropolitan Police. All arrangements agreed by Brent Council will be communicated through the appropriate channels.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The costs of the consultation and implementation of the proposals detailed in paragraph 4.8 are estimated at £3,000.
- 6.2 These proposals can be consulted on and implemented using the £80,000 Transport for London capital budget for 2014/15, allocated through the boroughs Local Implementation Plan for waiting and loading amendments.
- 6.3 There are no implications on the Council's revenue budgets arising from this report at this time. Minor amendments would not significantly impact the revenue generated through enforcement or from parking permits.

7.0 Legal Implications

- 7.1 The amendment of Traffic Management Orders will be in accordance with the requirements of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

8.0 Diversity Implications

- 8.1 S149 Equality Act 2010 provides that the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The introduction waiting restrictions will be subject to consultation and an equalities assessment. Although additional parking restrictions in the vicinity of the Hindu Temple may have a disproportionate effect on this religious group, they may be justified on the grounds of improved road safety and reduced congestion.

Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendix A (i) - (vi) – Plans of proposed amendments to Zone MA

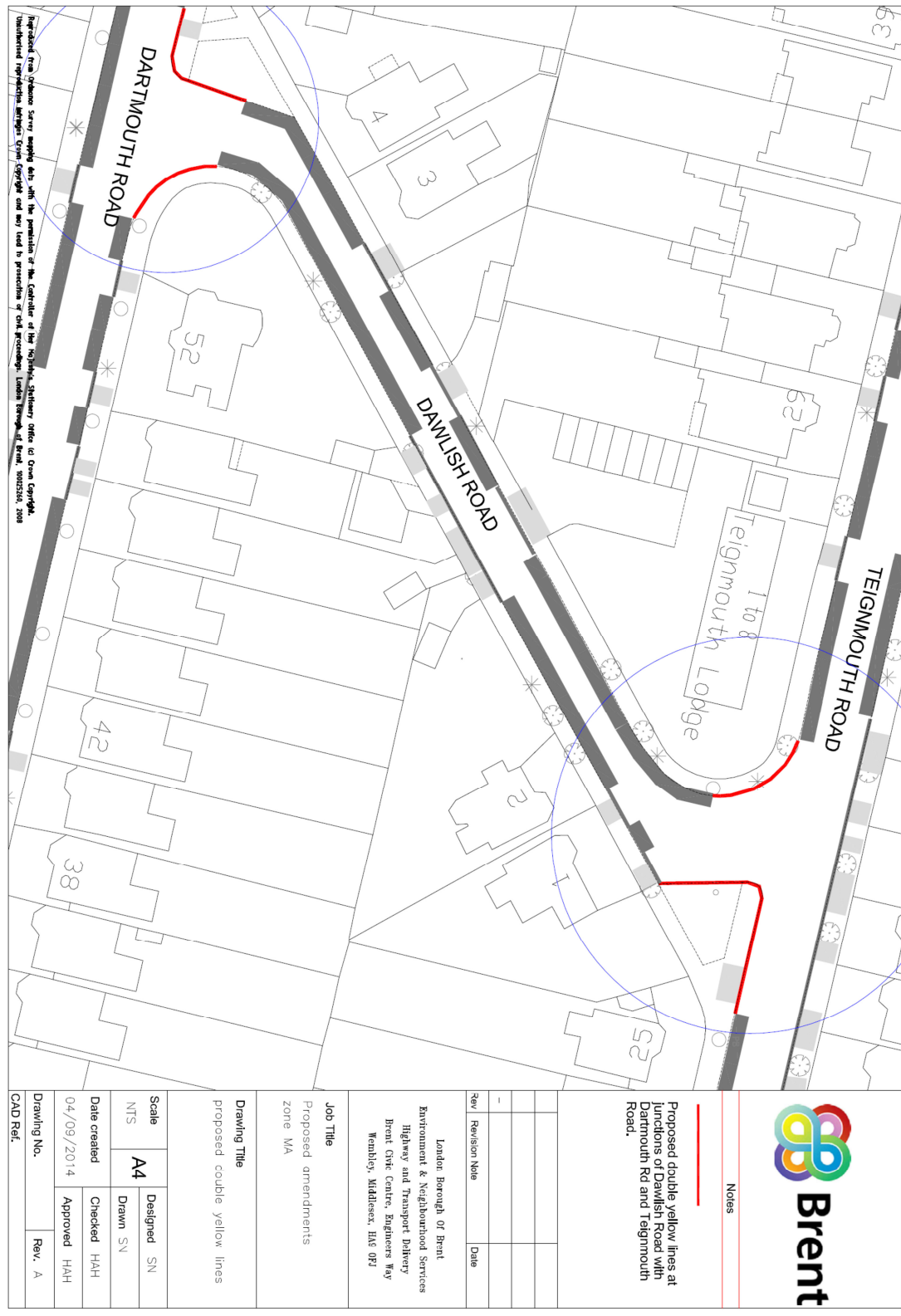
Appendix B – Letter from Lead Member for Highways and Transportation in response to the petitions

Contact Officers

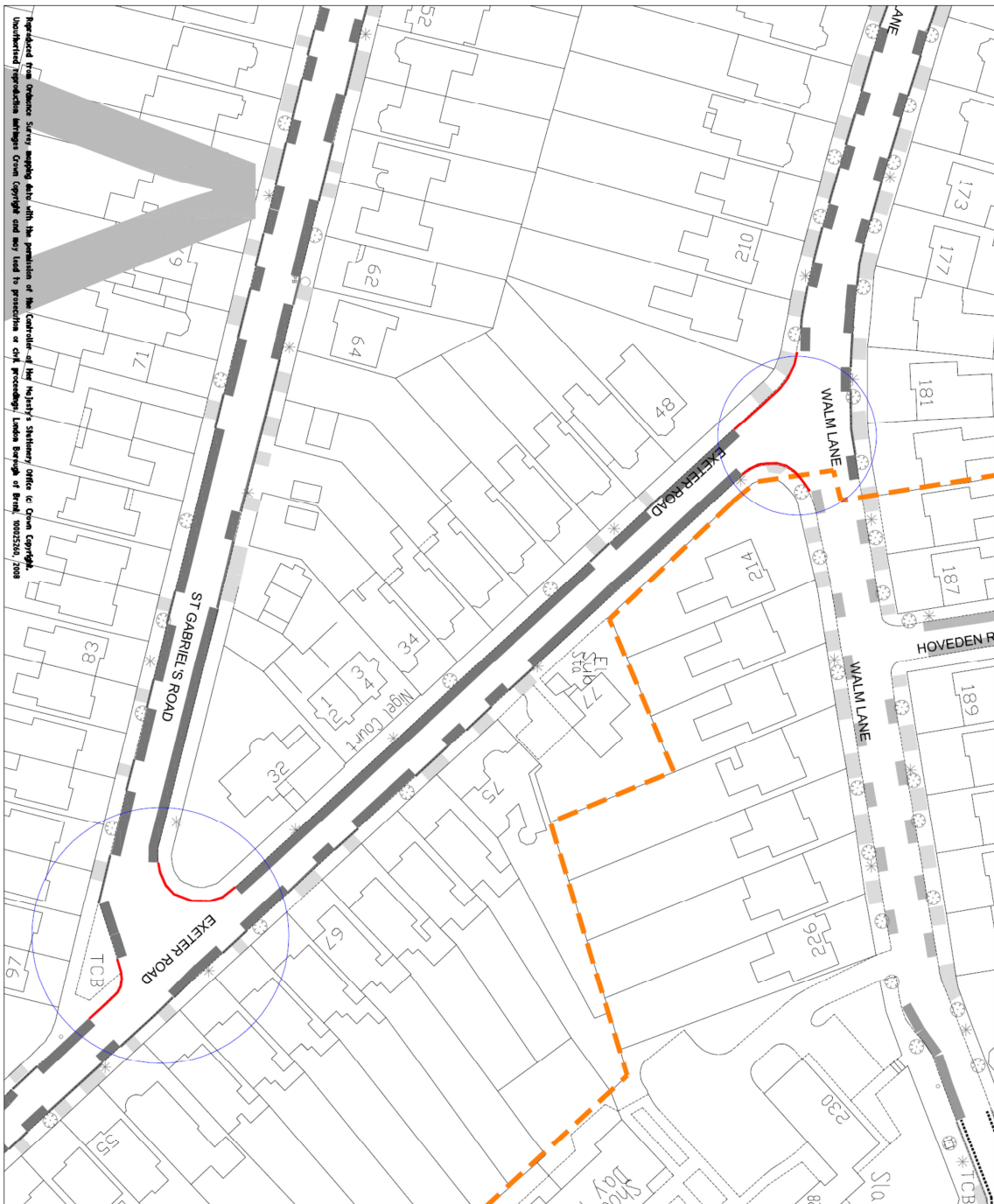
Sandor Fazekas, Projects Development Manager (x5113)
Hossein Amirhosseini, Team Leader Highway Design (x5188)

Brent Civic Centre
Engineers Way
Wembley HA9 0FJ
Tel: 020 8937 1234


Appendix A (i)- Plan of proposed amendments to Zone MA
Proposed double yellow lines at Dawlish Road junctions with Dartmouth Road and Teignmouth Road



Appendix A (ii) - Plan of proposed amendments to Zone MA
Proposed double yellow lines at Exeter Road junctions with Walm Lane and
St Gabriel's Road



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| <p>Proposed double yellow lines at junctions of Exeter Road with St Gabriel's Road and Walm Lane.</p> | |
| <p>Notes</p> | |
| <p>Rev</p> | <p>Revision Note</p> |
| <p>Date</p> | <p>Date</p> |
| <p>London Borough Of Brent Environment & Neighbourhood Services Highway and Transport Delivery Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 0PJ</p> | |
| <p>Job Title Proposed amendments zone MA</p> | |
| <p>Drawing Title proposed double yellow lines</p> | |
| <p>Scale</p> | <p>Designed SN</p> |
| <p>NTS</p> | <p>Drawn SN</p> |
| <p>A4</p> | <p>Checked HAH</p> |
| <p>Date created</p> | <p>Approved HAH</p> |
| <p>04/09/2014</p> | <p>Rev. A</p> |
| <p>Drawing No.</p> | <p>Rev. A</p> |
| <p>CAD Ref.</p> | |

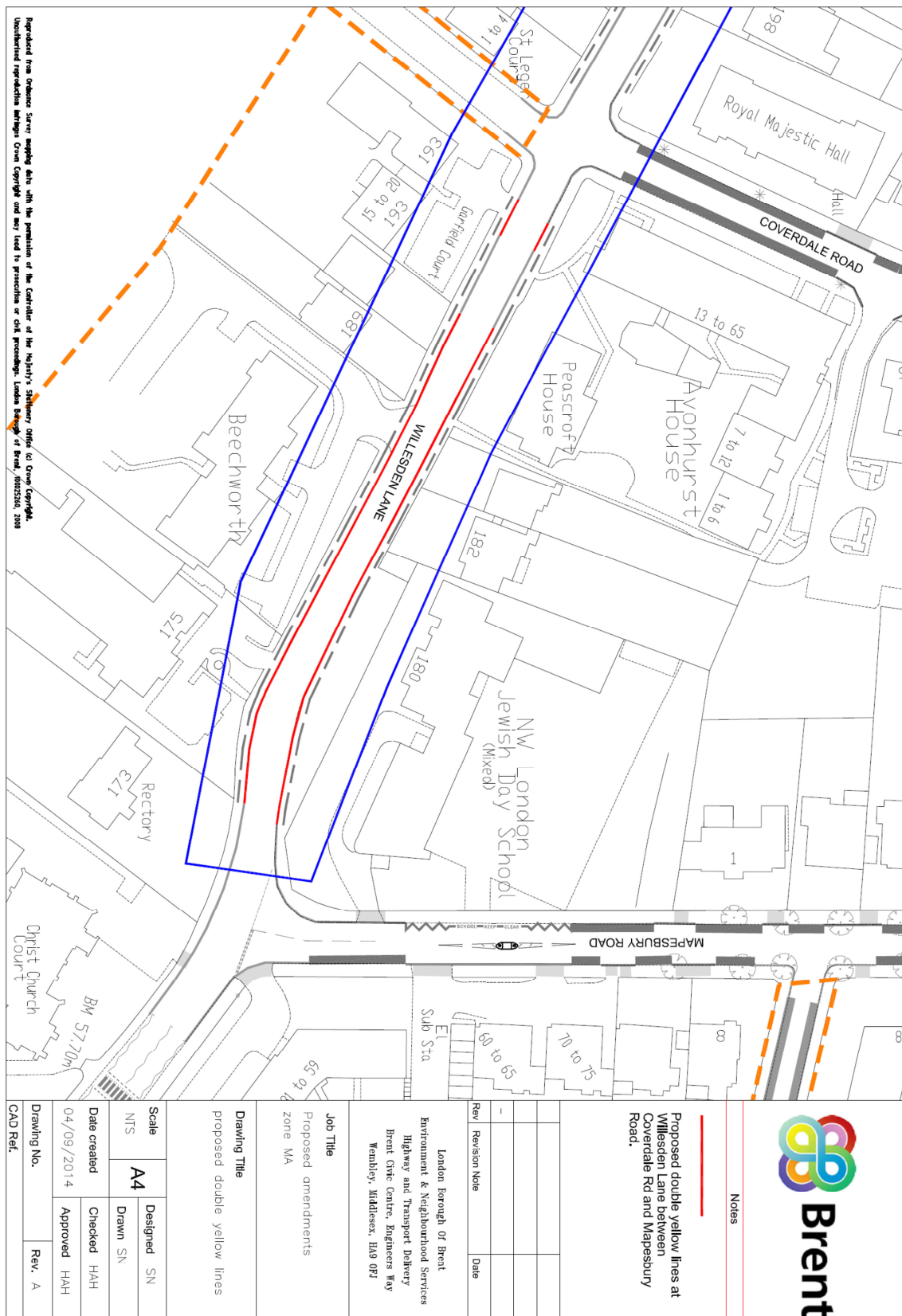
Appendix A (iii) - Plan of proposed amendments to Zone MA
Proposed double yellow lines at Lydford Road



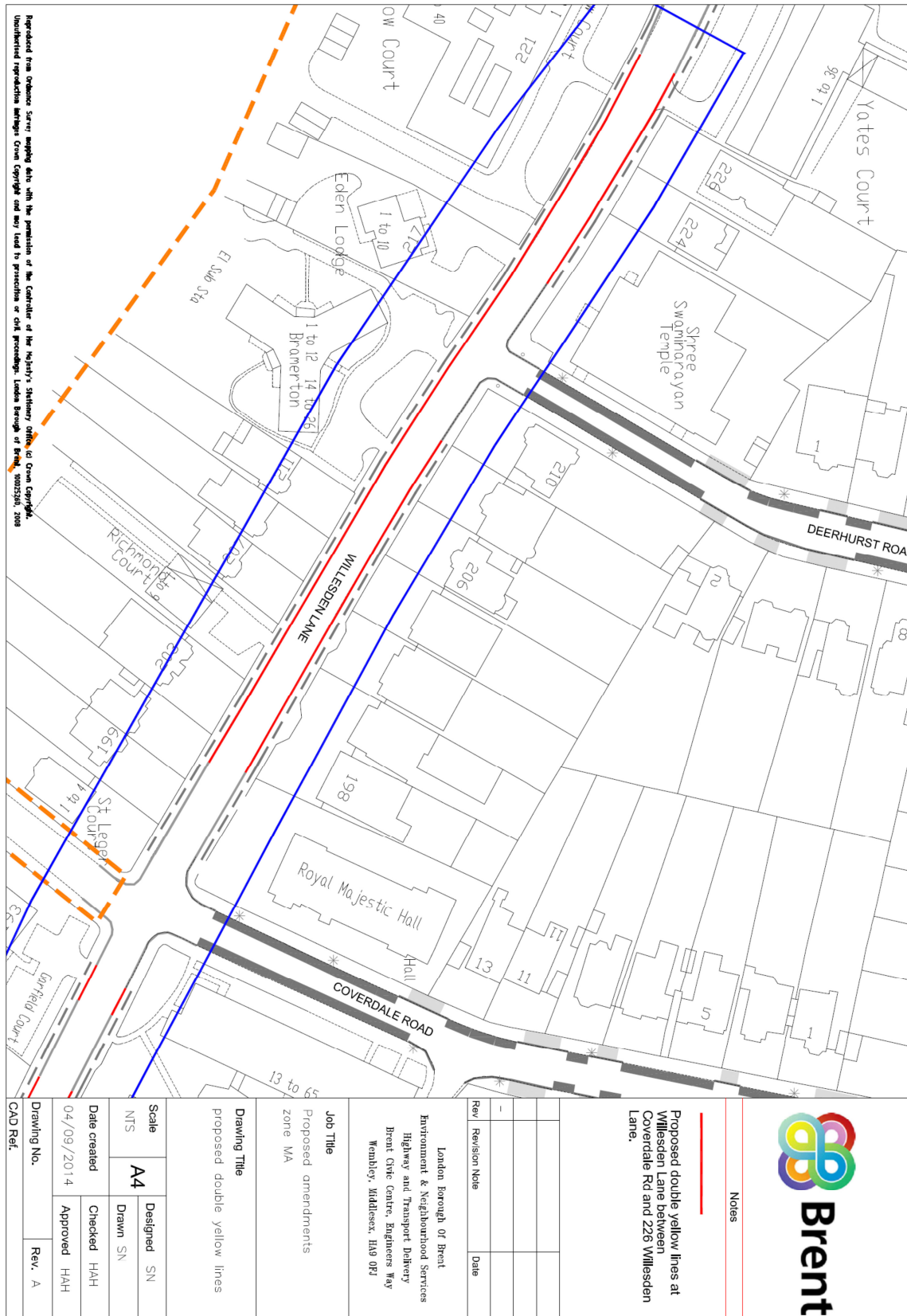
Appendix A (iv) - Plan of proposed amendments to Zone MA
Proposed double yellow lines at Chatsworth Road junction with Deerhurst Road and Coverdale Road



Appendix A (v) - Plan of proposed amendments to Zone MA
Proposed double yellow lines at Willesden Lane between Mapesbury Road and Coverdale Road



Appendix A(vi) - Plan of proposed amendments to Zone MA
Proposed double yellow lines at Willesden Lane between 226 Willesden Lane and Coverdale Road



Notes

Proposed double yellow lines at Willesden Lane between Coverdale Rd and 226 Willesden Lane.

| Rev | Revision Note | Date |
|-----|---------------|------|
| 1 | | |

London Borough of Brent
 Environment & Neighbourhood Services
 Highway and Transport Delivery
 Brent Cycle Centre, Engineers Way
 Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 0PJ

Job Title
 Proposed amendments
 zone MA

Drawing Title
 proposed double yellow lines

| Scale | Designed | Drawn |
|-------|----------|-------|
| NTS | A4 | SN |

| Date created | Checked | Approved |
|--------------|---------|----------|
| 04/09/2014 | HAH | HAH |

| Drawing No. | Rev. |
|-------------|------|
| CAD Ref. | A |

Appendix B – Letter from Lead Member for Highways and Transportation



Brent Civic Centre,
Engineers Way,
Wembley
Middlesex HA9 0FJ
TEL / MOB 020 8937 5124
EMAIL transportation@brent.gov.uk
WEB www.brent.gov.uk

16th February 2014

Dear Resident / Occupier,

Chatsworth Road – Proposed Parking Restriction Changes

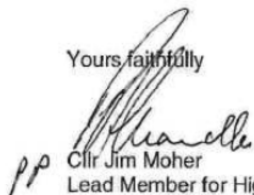
The Council has been consulting over a proposal to prevent obstructive parking and increase the weekend times of operation of some of the parking bays on Chatsworth Road in Willesden, which is close to the Shree Swaminarayan Temple.

The Council consulted with local people over the proposed use of double yellow lines at road junctions to prevent obstruction, along with a proposal to increase the weekend operating hours of parking bays on Chatsworth Road. There has been strong support and strong opposition to these proposals.

The Council fully sympathises with local people's wish to park on their roads, particularly within Controlled Parking Zone areas such as this. We are also mindful of the importance of the Temple to the Hindu community.

Given the contrasting feedback that we've received we propose to hold further discussions with the Temple and Chatsworth Road residents to see whether we can find a solution that is acceptable to all.

Yours faithfully


pp Cllr Jim Moher
Lead Member for Highways & Transportation