



## **EXECUTIVE**

14 September 2010.

Ward Affected:  
Wembley Central

### **Petition for improved safety measures – footpath Station Grove and Lyon Park Avenue**

#### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report informs the Executive of a petition that was received from residents in Wembley Central Ward to provide better lighting and consideration of CCTV in the footpath between Station Grove and Lyon Park Avenue, Wembley.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Executive note the contents of the petition received and seeking better lighting and consideration of CCTV in the footpath between Station Grove and Lyon Park Avenue, Wembley.
- 2.2 That the Executive note the current status of street lighting in the footpath concerned.
- 2.3 That the Executive note the Council's CCTV Strategy's position on the priorities for the installation of new CCTV.
- 2.4 That the Executive note information supplied by the Police in relation to this alleyway.
- 2.5 That the Executive does not support investment in new CCTV or additional street lighting.

#### **3.0 Petition**

- 3.1 A petition has been received from residents of in Wembley Central Ward. The petition is headed "Petition for safety measures in the footpath between Station Grove and Lyon Park Avenue, Wembley" and states "we the residents of Lyon Park Avenue and neighbouring roads all on Brent Council to provide better lighting

and to consider installing CCTV in this footpath to cut the crime and anti-social behaviour there”

- 3.2 The petition has been verified as containing the signatures of at least fifty persons on the Borough’s electoral register and hence requiring the consideration of the relevant Committee,

#### **4.0 Details**

- 4.1 The footpath concerned runs from Station Grove to the north-east to Lyon Park Avenue in a south westerly direction. From the northern end, there is a left bend of approximately 40 degrees, making it impossible to see the full extent of the footpath from one end to the other. A plan is shown at Appendix A.
- 4.2 The footpath is illuminated by four light columns, with some light also provided by a light column in Lyon Park Avenue at the southern entrance to the footpath.
- 4.3 The following information addresses the respective street lighting and CCTV issues, and the relevant crime statistics and history of lighting defects.

##### Street Lighting

- 4.4 The Council’s street lighting is managed through a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Contract that has improved the standard of street lighting to BS5489, which is recognised nationally as a high standard for street lighting.
- 4.5 There are 4 street light columns in the alleyway and these have been inspected as achieving the BS5489 lighting level. In the last two years, there have been six reported faults, all of which have been resolved. A fifth column at the Lyon Park Avenue end also provides some illumination into the alleyway.
- 4.6 On those occasions when overhanging trees and other vegetation has encroached from adjacent properties and impeded the lighting level, officers have contacted the property occupier to serve them with notice to cut back the overgrowth.
- 4.7 In summary, officers advise that the lighting infrastructure already in place is meeting the required standard and upgrading the lighting is not necessary.

##### CCTV Priorities

- 4.8 The Council’s CCTV Strategy was approved by the Executive in 2007, and sets out priorities for new CCTV locations as being based on the following evidence based criteria:
- a. Evidence, based on statistical information and techniques such as crime mapping, that the area in question has become a sustained crime hotspot;
- AND

- b. That the installation of fixed CCTV cameras is an appropriate element of the response to this problem.

4.9 Crime hotspots in Brent have almost always been based around town centres and transport interchanges. At present, Wembley, Harlesden, Kilburn, Neasden and Kingsbury have systems in place. An area around Church End has also benefited from recent investment.

4.10 Once the criteria at 4.8a and 4.8b above have been met, the Strategy sets out that the placement of cameras is made on the following basis:

Priority 1 - New town centres and/or transport interchanges not already served

Priority 2 - Expansion of existing town centre systems / transport interchange systems

Priority 3 - Crime hotspots outside of town centres

4.11 Assessments against the above criteria are made by the cross-agency CCTV Steering Group, who in turn report to the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).

#### Crime and anti-social behaviour in the alleyway and its close vicinity

4.12 The area concerned has not been highlighted through information from the Borough Intelligence Unit at Wembley Police Station as a high crime area.

4.13 Officers advise that placing fixed CCTV in residential areas such as this is generally avoided because of the fear of intrusion into local residents' properties, and to do so would not be a proportionate response to the level of crime and anti-social behaviour known to the Police. The option of placing deployable cameras is also not generally favoured in areas such as this, even where crime levels are higher, as the lamp columns are too low, and there is a risk of expensive cameras being vandalised or tampered with, as has happened elsewhere in the Borough.

## **5.0 Conclusions**

5.1 Officers conclude that the type of area concerned is low priority for new fixed CCTV installation and there is a danger that deployable cameras (even if the crime statistics supported some form of CCTV) would be vulnerable to attack and vandalism.

5.2 The current lighting provision and lighting levels achieved meet the Council's lighting standard (BS5489).

5.3 It is not, therefore, recommended to install CCTV or enhance the lighting levels in the alleyway concerned.

## **6.0 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There is no existing budget provision for additional street lighting columns. Each new light column would cost in the order of £1,000 capital.
- 6.2 There is some provision (around £150k) for capital investment in CCTV, and the CCTV Steering Group is considering a number of proposals which include purchasing more deployable cameras and making necessary upgrades to the electronic systems that support the Borough's CCTV infrastructure.
- 6.3 An initial survey of the alleyway suggests that three cameras would be required at an estimated cost of £120,000 subject to survey and whether the cameras were linked by fibre optic cable or dependent on BT transmission links. If the latter, there would be revenue implications of around £10k per annum for transmission costs and maintenance.
- 6.3 However, there are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this Report as they do not result in any new expenditure on lighting or CCTV.

## **7.0 Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications.

## **8.0 Environmental Implications**

- 8.1 There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this Report.

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

There are no staffing implications arising as a result of this report.

## **10.0 Background Papers**

CCTV Strategy 2007

Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Keith Balmer, StreetCare Unit, Brent House, 349/357 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6BZ, Telephone 020 8937 5066

## **13.0 Contact Officers:**

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