



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE Tuesday, 27 July 2010 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor J Moher (Chair), Councillor Powney (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Beswick, Butt and Jones

Also present: Councillors Brown, Hashmi, Long and Sheth

1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial interests

None

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting Held on 19 January 2010

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 January 2010 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising (if any)

None

4. Deputations (if any)

None at this meeting.

5. Petitions

Harrow Road Corridor

The Committee noted that there was no member of the public present at the meeting to speak to this petition and that officers' report on the subject was on the agenda (item 6).

RESOLVED:-

That the petition against the closure of Berkhamsted Avenue under the general heading of Harrow Road Corridor be noted.

Speeding in the Temple Road area

The Committee noted that there was no member of the public present at the meeting to speak to this petition and that officers' report on the subject was on the agenda (item 7)

RESOLVED:-

That the petition which sought particular measures for addressing speeding traffic in the Temple Road area be noted.

Proposed removal of street tree outside 148 Purves Road NW10

The Committee noted that there was no member of the public present at the meeting to speak to this petition and that officers' report on the subject was on the agenda (item 9)

RESOLVED:-

That the petition against the removal of street tree outside 148 Purves Road NW10 be noted.

6. Harrow Road Corridor Scheme

The Committee gave consideration to this report which informed them of a recent consultation on a proposed Corridor Scheme for Harrow Road between Clifton Avenue and Monks Park. The scheme included a proposal to close Berkhamsted Avenue to vehicular traffic at its junction with Harrow Road which gave rise to a petition in excess of 50 registered electors.

In outlining the reasons for the scheme, the Head of Transportation, Tim Jackson stated that the scheme would be funded by Transport for London (TfL) was designed to prevent injury accidents particularly at the Berkhamsted/Harrow Road junction which had recorded at least 5 turning accidents over a 3 year period. He gave a summary of the consultation results, the key reasons given by residents and the local schools in support of their petition against the proposed closure. The Head of Transportation continued that in order to maximise the scheme budget and achieve safety benefits, he had recommended that work on all elements of the scheme other than the closure of Berkhamsted Avenue should be progressed. This recommendation would not preclude any possible alternative solutions for the junction at Berkhamsted Avenue from being implemented at a later date.

In response to the opposition to the road closure Tim Jackson recommended a further engagement on the proposals with the local community. He clarified in response to a query from Councillor Butt that the engagement would cover discussions on a number of different options including the closure of the junction, one-way operation and a raised entry treatment. The engagement would involve meetings with ward members, residents, representatives (including the lead petitioner) and the local school. A public exhibition or a meeting could be held as requested by the petitioners and a progress report presented to a future meeting of this Committee for a decision.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the contents of the petition and the issues raised during the consultation be noted;
- (ii) that the implementation of all elements of the scheme be agreed except for the closure of Berkhamsted Avenue;
- (iii) that Committee officers be instructed not to progress the closure of Berkhamsted Avenue but to engage further with the local community, on alternative options to address the accident issues at the Berkhamsted Avenue junction, and to present a report on the results of that engagement to a subsequent meeting of the Committee for a decision.

7. Speeding in the Temple Road Area

This report informed members of a petition received from residents of the Temple Road area regarding concerns about speeding and rat running within the area. Tim Jackson informed the Committee that although residents had previously been informed that the area had been prioritised for funding for traffic calming measures and that funding had been secured for the implementation of measures within the 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years, they submitted a petition that sought action to be taken earlier.

Councillor Hashmi speaking to the petition stated that Temple Road was a major corridor route to Cricklewood and Willesden Green Libraries, Rainbow and Roundwood Parks, to mention a few. Despite that speeding traffic had made Temple Road a hazard for pedestrian and vehicular safety. Councillor Hashmi urged the Committee to bring forward the scheme in the interest of public safety.

Tim Jackson outlined the processes necessary to implement the scheme, the constraints around the availability of funding for the scheme and explained why it was not practicable to bring the scheme forward. He continued that officers appreciated the concerns shared by residents of the Temple Road area about the traffic conditions and in recognition, had prioritised the area for funding through the TfL LIP process. He continued that funding had been secured to progress the scheme over the 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years and that constraints over funding and processes meant that it would not be practicable to bring forward the implementation of the scheme into 2010/11. He added that officers would ensure that the scheme was progressed as quickly as practicable within the financial and process constraints.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the contents of the petition and the issues raised be noted;
- (ii) that officers be instructed to progress the scheme as quickly as practicable within the funding and procedural constraints set on the project.

8. Report on Progress on the 2010/11 Controlled Parking Zones Programme

This report informed the Committee of progress on the 2010/11 Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) works programme since the programme was agreed by Committee in January 2010. Members noted the following details on the progress report from The Head of Highways & Transportation;

Public consultation on the extension of HY CPZ had been carried out and following discussions with ward Councillors on the results, the Head of Transportation had agreed to the introduction of controlled parking into a number of roads within the zone subject to further consultation taking place with residents within streets that did not support the introduction of controlled parking which was expected to be completed prior to the summer holiday period.

The implementation of the CPZ in Chadwick Road was now in progress and was expected to be completed by 6th September 2010. Changes to the days of operation of MW CPZ zone to Mondays to Fridays had been agreed with implementation planned for October 2010.

Public consultation to introduce controlled parking zone in the Grasmere Road area (Preston) and Northwick Avenue area (Northwick Park) was in progress, the outcome of which would be reported to the next meeting in October.

Public consultations to introduce controlled parking in the following areas were to be carried out in September 2010 and the results expected to be reported to the Highways Committee meeting in October 2010;

- (a) Alperton area bounded by Ealing Road, Carlyon Road, Abbeydale Road and Queensbury Road (Alperton)
- (b) Extension to zone ST controlled parking to District, Central, Roundtree and Saunderton Roads in Sudbury area.
- (c) South east of Kingsbury Station (Valley Drive, Mersham Drive, Old Kenton Lane, Crundale Avenue etc) in Fryent area
- (d) Northwick Circle, including Draycott Avenue and the Ridgeway.

He added that public consultation to extend zone GA CPZ including Anson Road (part), Tracey, Henson and Gardiner Avenues was in progress and would be reported to the next meeting in October as was the programme of minor changes to CPZs C, E & W.

Mr Michael Maurice, a local resident addressed the Committee. He urged members to consider revisions to the policy on controlled parking so as to introduce a one hour parking restriction popularly known as "one unhappy hour" as practised in the neighbouring Boroughs of Barnet and Harrow. He also informed the Committee that the present charges for parking permits in Brent were far in excess of our neighbouring Boroughs and requested a reduction. Mr Maurice suggested that in order to reflect the differing costs of traffic management in the North and South of the Borough, the entire Borough be divided into 2 zones (the dividing line being the North Circular Road) with those living in areas in the south paying the current parking charges and those in the areas in the north of the Borough paying reduced charges.

In response to the suggestions Tim Jackson stated that it had always been the policy of the Council to have a uniform charge for the whole of the Borough and that previous work had indicated that it was not cost effective to introduce a 1 or 2 hour enforcement. He continued that the council's parking policy was due for a review which was hoped to be concluded in December 2010 and added that the suggestions made could be considered as part of that review.

Finally, Tim Jackson identified a small number of locations where residents and/or ward members were seeking CPZ reviews and could be considered for inclusion in the CPZ programme as reserve schemes.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the progress on the agreed CPZ programme for the current financial year as detailed in 3.7 to 3.19 of this report be noted;
- (ii) That the progress on the agreed CPZ programme for the current financial year as detailed in 3.7 to 3.19 of this report be noted;
- (iii) That the decision taken by the Head of Transportation with regard to extension of CPZ HY as set out in 3.4 of this report be noted and authority be delegated to the Head of Transportation to consider the re-consultation responses and then decide how to progress the scheme;
- (iv) That the advice regarding schemes not progressing beyond local consultation as set out in 3.21 of this report be noted and indicate to officers any areas of Brent that have significant parking problems should be considered as "reserve" schemes for inclusion in the programme if resources become available.

9. Proposed Removal of Street Tree Outside 148 Purves Road NW10

This Committee gave consideration to a report that informed them of a petition received from residents in Queens Park Ward objecting to the removal of a street tree outside 148 Purves Road NW10. The tree was the subject matter of a subsidence claim. The report also outlined the process undertaken by Officers when a subsidence claim was made and the reasons for the proposed removal of this particular tree. The evidence in relation to the subsidence claim provided in Appendix 1 was exempt from publication as it contained the following category of exempt information as specified in the Local Government Access to Information Act 1972 namely;

"information relating to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information ."

The Head of Highways and Transportation, Tim Jackson informed the Committee that the proposal to remove the mature Alnus (Alder) street tree was in response to a subsidence claim being made in relation to the property at 144 Purves Road and was based on information set out in appendix 1, having regard to the current legal position and cost savings. He clarified that an analysis of legislation and recent case law had confirmed that once it was demonstrated that tree roots were the cause of subsidence on a property, the claim was more than likely to be successful

if progressed. In addition if the tree was felled now it would remove the risk of a claim to recover the cost of underpinning the property being pursued against the Council which represented an effective saving of at least £7,000.00. Tim Jackson continued that in order to mitigate against the impact of the removal of this street tree, a replacement tree of appropriate size and species would be planted in the vicinity of Purves Road following the removal of the street tree.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the contents of the petition received objecting to the removal of the street tree outside 148 Purves Road be noted;
- (ii) That the current procedures undertaken by officers in relation to street tree related subsidence claims be noted;
- (iii) That the reasons for removing the street tree outside 148 Purves Road as set out within the report and Appendix 1 be noted.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 19 October 2010 at 7.00pm

11. Any Other Urgent Business

None at this meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

J MOHER
Chair