



**Highways Committee**  
18 December 2012

**Report from the Head of Transportation**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
Mapesbury

**Report Title: Petition requesting review of the controlled parking zone surrounding the Mosque in Howard Road NW2.**

**1.0 Summary**

1.1 This report informs the Committee of a petition requesting a review of the controlled parking zone surrounding the Mosque in Howard Road NW2.

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 That the Committee notes the contents of the petition and the issues raised.

2.2 That the Committee instructs the Head of Transportation to work closely with representatives of the Mosque, residents and business representatives, local members and lead member in identifying opportunities that mitigate the impact of traffic to the area without compromising the Council's policies and obligations.

2.3 That the main petitioner be informed of the outcome of the Highways Committee decision in regard to this matter.

**3.0 Background**

3.1 A petition has been received by the Council from worshippers at the Mosque in Howard Road NW2 via Cllr Sami Hashmi. The petition has been verified in accordance with the council's procedures and has more than fifty signatures.

3.2 The full wording of the petition is:

*“We the undersigned petition Brent Council to review the Controlled Parking Zones surrounding the Mosque in Howard Road to assist worshippers to use currently empty parking bay spaces in the wider area.”*

A copy of the petition will be made available to the Committee for inspection.

- 3.3 The Mosque and Islamic Centre of Brent located at 33A Howard Road, Cricklewood NW2 6DS was established in 1976. The Centre provides facilities to the local Muslim community for prayers and religious-education services, as well as an advice surgery from the local MP, community support officers, a barrister and a doctor, who visit the mosque every month. The Mosque also has facilities to perform marriage ceremony's and funerals.
- 3.4 The Mosque is located in Controlled Parking Zone GM which operates during Monday to Saturday, 10am to 9pm. Other CPZs near the Mosque include Zone MA (Monday to Saturday, 10am to 9pm) and Zone GA (Monday to Friday, 10am to 3pm). A map showing the extent of these CPZs is shown in Appendix A.
- 3.5 In 2003, the Council was in receipt of petitions from the Dar-AI-Islam Foundation and the Mosque and Islamic Centre of Brent, both requesting changes to the operational hours of CPZ MC (now named Zone MA) to enable visitors to park in close proximity to these centres. Committee agreed that the request be investigated through a review of the CPZs in which these centres are situated (Zones MC & GM), subject to the availability of funding.
- 3.6 Officers conducted surveys of parking demand and usage of existing facilities in Zone MC (now renamed zone MA) and found that an additional 13 short-term parking places could be reallocated as 'pay & display' and shared use parking (as shown in the table below). This was reported to the July 2003 Highways Committee and members approved the amendments to the scheme subject to statutory consultation.
- 3.7 In October 2003, Council officers met with local members of the area. At the meeting concerns were expressed about the limited parking for worshippers attending the Mosque in Howard Road. Following this a consultation was undertaken with local residents and businesses regarding the possibility of permit holder only bays in streets close to the Mosque (Howard Road, Oaklands Road and Rockhall Road) being converted to shared use operation (permit holder and "pay and display") on Fridays 12.30 – 2.30pm only. No objections were received during the statutory consultation and the bays were amended.

#### **4.0 Review of Petition**

- 4.1 The petition requests that the current shared use parking arrangements that operate on Fridays in Howard Road, Oaklands Road and Rockhall Road be extended to other neighbouring streets around the Mosque.

- 4.2 Further to receiving the petition, officers carried out parking surveys to identify the number of potential empty spaces on streets located within a reasonable walking distance from the Mosque, which showed that up to 150 additional spaces could potentially be made available.
- 4.3 However, the Mosque has been requested to provide officers with data on travel arrangements for worshippers (number of car borne visitors, travel choices etc) so as to enable officers to understand the demand and estimate impacts. To date no information has been received.
- 4.4 Although there is potential for further parking provision, it is not possible to predict how future growth in numbers of vehicles to the area will impact on local congestion. Provision of additional parking is very likely to encourage more car-borne trips to the Mosque, which could increase congestion and place greater burden on local street parking.
- 4.5 Officer's can only conclude that extending the current Friday parking arrangement to the streets shown in the survey will not necessarily mitigate the impact of relatively large numbers of visitors attending the Mosque on Fridays, and may potentially increase car use and local congestion by increasing parking availability.
- 4.6 It is recommended that a working party comprising of officers, local members, residents and business representatives, the lead member and the Mosque representatives should review the current arrangements and consider opportunities for reducing car dependency that satisfy all parties without comprising Council policies and obligations in reducing congestion and managing the network.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications.
- 5.3 Members are reminded that the CPZ programme for 2012-13 and beyond is deleted and there is no budget allocation to progress changes to the CPZ.

## **6.0 Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## **7.0 Diversity Implications**

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Map showing the CPZs surrounding the Mosque

## **Background Papers**

None

## Contact Officers

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# APPENDIX A

## CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE EXTENTS

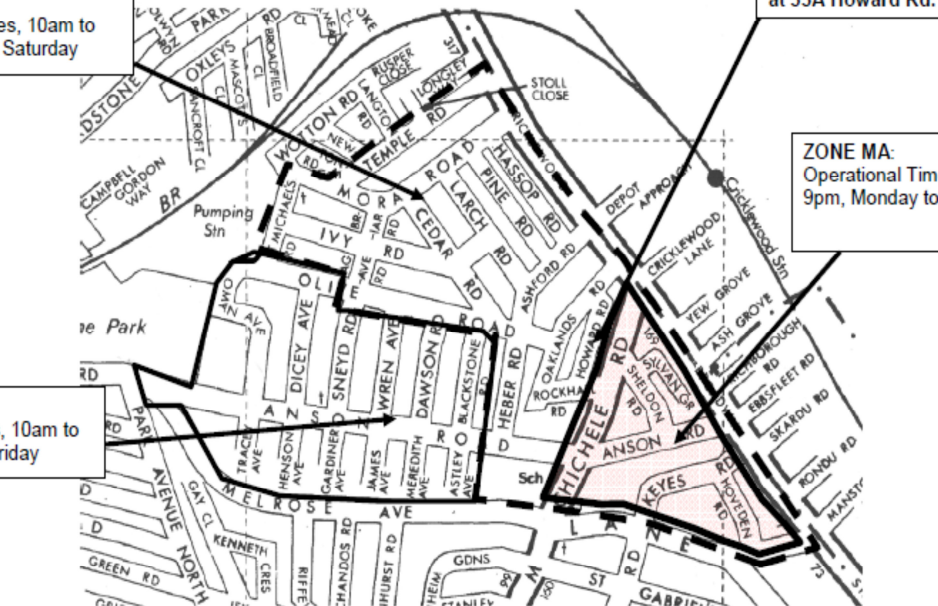
### ZONES GM, GA AND MA

**ZONE GM:**  
Operational Times, 10am to 9pm, Monday to Saturday

Location of the MOSQUE  
at 33A Howard Rd.

**ZONE MA:**  
Operational Times, 10am to 9pm, Monday to Saturday

**ZONE GA:**  
Operational Times, 10am to 3pm, Monday to Friday



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