

Appendix 2

Question to Council 13th July 2009 – Tubbs Road

29. QUESTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR JOSEPH

Residents have requested reducing the classification of Tubbs Road and a reduction in congestion and pollution, particularly when there are restrictions due to either road or utility works. Can the Lead Member please consider lightening the burden of traffic on Tubbs Road so residents can enjoy their neighborhood and breathe cleaner air?

Response from the Lead Member for Highways & Transportation

Tubbs Road forms part of the Boroughs Principal (A) road network, linking High Street Harlesden (A404) and Station road (A4000), both of which are also Principal roads. Approximately 8 years ago a scheme was implemented changing Tubbs Road into a one way street, introducing speed cushions, controlled parking and a width restriction to both reduce traffic speeds and help mitigate congestion. However, this remains the most direct route to Station road and Willesden Junction for traffic travelling north along High Street Harlesden.

Roads were classified by the Ministry of Transport many years ago to demote the importance of roads as part of the highway road network and the Council would need to apply to the Department for Transport for the reclassification of a road, where there are appropriate grounds to do so. However the reclassification of Tubbs Road would not in itself result in any significant reduction of traffic as it is used mainly by local traffic and there is a width restriction near the junction with Station Road which prevents larger vehicles from using the road.

Officers in Transportation have applied to Transport for London (TfL) for funding in 2010/11 for a major scheme to improve the infrastructure in Harlesden Town Centre. This scheme will not only focus on improving the public realm but will also consider traffic flows, including buses and private vehicles and any improvements that can be made to the configuration of signalled junctions in the area. It is anticipated that reducing congestion in this town centre would also reduce the volume of local traffic using Tubbs Road as through route. Officers will be mindful of the conditions in Tubbs Road when developing the bid to TfL and the scheme.

The Council also continue to work to promote the use of sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. In terms of public transport, improvements have been made to the overground service at Willesden junction station, and there are also good local bus links. There are now over 50 car clubs in the borough, the nearest to Tubbs Road being situated in Rucklidge Avenue. Significant developments require transport assessments incorporating traffic reduction measures by developers, such as green travel plans. In 2008 Brent won the smarter travel award for the highest number of Travel plans in London. Through this activity the Council is working to reduce traffic congestion generally which in turn will impact on locations such as Tubbs Road.

Under legislation utility companies are required to serve a notice for their work and the Council have a duty to coordinate and monitor their activities to mitigate congestion on the network. Quarterly meetings are held to discuss utility companies major work programme so that these are scheduled to minimise any inconvenience to local residents, businesses and the travelling public. Brent is also one of 21 London Boroughs to apply to the Secretary of State for a permitting scheme under the Traffic Management Act and this will improve the control and monitoring of utility work.

The London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003 gives the power to a local authority to take on the civil enforcement of certain Moving Traffic Contraventions by decriminalising those offences. This in effect allows the transfer of the enforcement responsibility from the Police to the traffic authority for certain offences. Officers in Transportation submitted a report to Council Executive earlier this year and the recommendations for implementation were approved. Improved enforcement of yellow box junctions and banned right turns will also help improve traffic flows in the borough – including locations such as Tubbs Road.