



**Highways Committee**  
11 October 2012

**Report from the Head of  
Transportation**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
Harlesden

**Petition by residents of Harlesden Ward to be consulted on  
proposed highway scheme**

## **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report informs the Committee of a petition objecting stating that areas of the Harlesden ward were not consulted on the proposed highway improvement scheme in Harlesden town centre. It seeks that those excluded are consulted on the proposals separately.
- 1.2 The report outlines the extent of the consultation area, why that area was chosen and how the extents went beyond the statutory consultation procedures.
- 1.3 This report seeks confirmation that the consultation that was undertaken was comprehensive and that no further consultation is required.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Committee note the contents of the petition and the issues raised.
- 2.2 That the Committee approve the consultation process undertaken and agree that it met and exceeded the statutory consultation process and that no further action is required.

## **3.0 The Petition**

- 3.1 A petition has been received from residents of the Harlesden area via Cheryl Henasy. The petition has been verified in accordance with the council's procedures and has 50 signatures. The area of the petition is shown on Appendix A.

3.2 The full wording of the petition is:

*'We live in Harlesden Ward but we were not consulted on the changes to traffic in the town centre. Our views count as much as anyone else's. We demand to be consulted on the proposed changes to Harlesden Town Centre'*

#### **4.0 Existing Situation**

4.1 In January 2012 a consultation was undertaken on two options for a major highway improvement scheme for the town centre, the results of which were presented to the Highways Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

4.2 The committee resolved to proceed to undertake detailed design and implement a preferred option with associated amendments to the scheme that were recommended in the report. A copy of the recommendations from the March 2012 Committee report is attached in Appendix B.

#### **5.0 Detail**

5.1 The scheme consists of improvements to High Street Harlesden, Manor Park Road, Tavistock Road and Crownhill Road in the town centre as well as amendments to the adjacent controlled parking zone boundaries.

5.2 In January 2012 consultation packs were delivered to over 11,000 business and residential properties in the area. Residents and traders were consulted on two scheme options along with proposed changes to the controlled parking zone boundaries.

5.3 It is normal procedure to consult frontages directly affected by the proposals i.e. those within the limits of the works. However, the area covered can sometimes be extended to the immediate surrounding roads.

5.4 As amendments were being proposed to Controlled Parking Zone boundaries as part of the scheme, it was decided to extend the limits of the consultation to incorporate all residents within the Zones affected (as shown in the drawing contained in Appendix B).

5.5 As well as the normal letter drop there was extensive publicity on the scheme proposals for those that did not receive consultation packs, including:

- Information on the local radio;
- In local papers and in Brent magazine;
- A permanent exhibition was erected in the local library;
- Notification of the consultation was posted on lamp columns throughout the town centre;

- Information was posted on the Council website with a rolling message on the front page throughout the consultation period; and
- A manned exhibition was undertaken at the Salvation Army in the town centre.

Every effort was therefore made to ensure that individuals located outside of the immediate “letter drop” area were made aware of the proposals and invited to comment.

5.6 In addition the local Town Team campaigned in the town centre trying to advise people of the proposals and where they could find more information.

5.7 904 questionnaires were returned as a result of the consultation giving a response rate of 8% which is not an unusual return for a consultation of this size. The responses were well distributed between the four zones and town centre. 55% of respondents favoured Option B.

## **6.0 Discussion**

6.1 It is difficult to know where to draw the boundary line in any direct consultation, but there has to be a boundary. It is considered that, even for a scheme of this size and importance, the catchment area and scale of the consultation exercise was large. In addition, by externally advertising the proposals in the local press and other sources, information was made available to a much wider audience.

6.2 In conclusion, the consultation process went beyond statutory requirements and was extensive in scope and coverage.

## **7.0 Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the report at this time.

## **8.0 Legal Implications**

8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report and its recommendations.

## **9.0 Equalities Implications**

9.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – A plan showing the area of the petition, the area of the consultation and the extent of the proposed highway scheme.

Appendix B – Copy of the recommendations from the committee report presented to the Highways Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

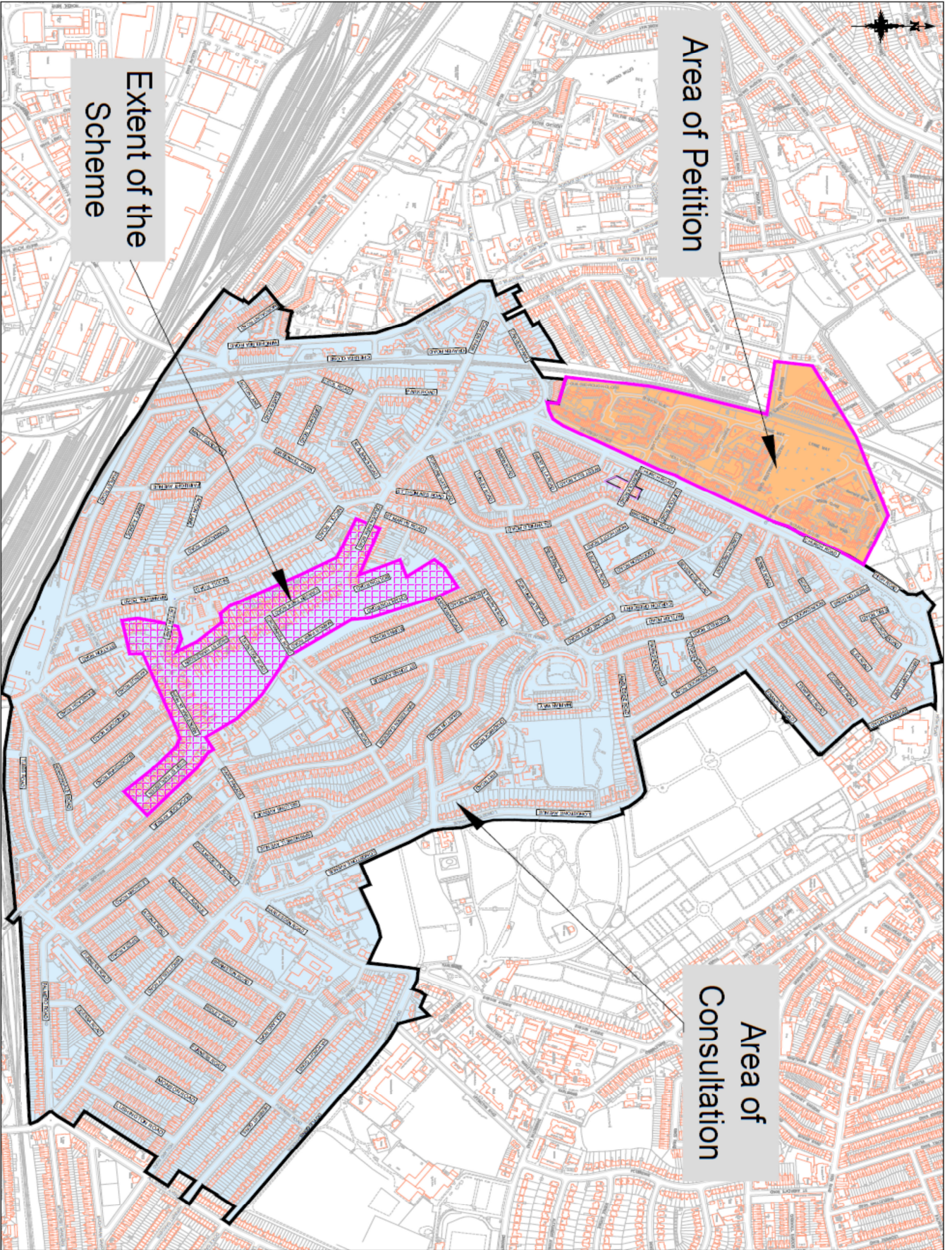
**Background Papers**

None

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## Appendix B

### MARCH HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE – HARLESDEN REPORT

#### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Committee notes the results of the recent consultation into options for the Harlesden Town Centre Project and instructs officers to proceed with Option B, including recommendations identified within section 6.10 of the report, subject to confirmation of funding from Transport for London and completion of the necessary statutory consultation.
- 2.2 That Committee authorises the Head of Transportation to consider any objections and representations to the statutory consultation and to report back to Committee if there are significant or substantial objections or concerns raised, otherwise to implement option B.
- 2.3 That a progress report will be prepared and reported back to Committee during the autumn prior to commencement of the works on site.

#### Decisions:

- (i) Noted the results of the recent consultation into options for the Harlesden Town Centre Project and instructed officers to proceed with option B, including recommendations identified within section 6.10 of the report, subject to confirmation of funding from Transport for London and completion of the necessary statutory consultation;
- (ii) Authorised the Head of Transportation to consider any objections and representations to the statutory consultation and to report back to Committee if there are significant or substantial objections or concerns raised, otherwise to implement option B.
- (iii) Agreed that a progress report be prepared and reported back to Committee during the autumn prior to commencement of the works on site.