Welbeck Road area Parking Review

Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Beacon Centre, Scott Crescent

6.30pm, 28 November 2013

Those Present:

Councillor Susan Hall (chair); Leader of Council and

Community Safety & Environment Portfolio Holder

Councillor Henson Roxbourne ward Councillor Currie Roxbourne ward Councillor Dharmarajah Roxbourne ward Councillor Marakar West Harrow ward Resident Welbeck Road resident Resident Welbeck Road resident Resident Welbeck Road resident Resident Welbeck Road resident

Representative Transport for London property management (TfL)

Representative Grange Primary school

Paul Newman Harrow Council – Traffic & Parking Team
Matt Wroe Harrow Council – Traffic & Parking Team
Stephen Freeman Harrow Council – Traffic & Parking Team

Apologies

Gareth Thomas MP, Councillor Stoodley, Councillor Robson, Metropolitan Police, NW London Chamber of Commerce, Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Beacon Centre, Roxeth Green Free Church and two residents

Introduction and Purpose of Meeting

Councillors, residents and other representatives were introduced. The parking problems in the area were acknowledged. The council have prioritised this area for a parking review seeking to address parking problems. This meeting represents the first of a three stage consultative process. It will confirm from the local community the parking issues and outline some potential solutions. It is there to establish the approximate area for comprehensive consultation in the second stage. It is also there to record other highway related issues which potentially could be addressed as part of this review or a separately funded parallel traffic scheme.

Stages in the Consultative Process

This stakeholder meeting is a small group of local representative and stakeholders including residents and sometimes businesses tasked with defining the parking and other related issues and defining an area for more detailed consultation.

In the second stage all residents and businesses within the agreed area will be asked about their parking (and traffic) issues and whether they wished to be included in a controlled parking zone (CPZ). They will be advised about the advantages and disadvantages/costs of any CPZ and about associated proposals like double yellow lines.

Should the majority of responses in part or all of the area support a CPZ then there will be statutory consultation to introduce that CPZ (third stage). The meeting was urged to encouraged

to persuade everyone to respond so the views of the community is properly represented. It is likely irrespective of the extent of any CPZ that the council will pursue double yellow lines on junctions, bends etc for safety and access reasons.

Feedback from community on Parking and Traffic issues

- 1) Residents confirmed their concern about parking problems in the section Welbeck Road from its junction with Coles Crescent to at least the entrance to Grange school. A significant part of this problem was attributed to the businesses operating within The Arches. Large vans and cars not owned by residents are parking on the road for long periods. This problem was acknowledged by TfL who experience great parking problems with parking on The Arches (owned by TfL). There are many separate car (repair) businesses which are seen as the main cause of the problem, TfL has recently released area under another arch for car storage but still insufficient. Although most of these businesses are towards the far end of The Arches the problem is not significant in Roxeth Green Avenue due to parking controls there.
- Parking at two bends in Welbeck Road (by junction with The Arches and opposite school entrance) and junctions cause safety issues and a resident reported a recent head-on collision.
- 3) Vehicles are being parked blocking driveways especially at school times. A resident requested road humps.
- 4) Vehicles are being driven too fast. This again is a special concern at school times. More humps suggested by a resident. A councillor asked if chicanes could be considered.
- 5) The roads including pavements are in poor state of repair with potholes. Rayners Lane estate construction traffic seen as causing damage to Scott Crescent and Coles Crescent especially. A resident reported that a council officer had advised some resurfacing was imminent.
- 6) Roads being used for large heavy goods vehicle (sometimes articulated HGVs) access to The Arches.
- 7) Vehicles being driven on the pavement near the junction between Welbeck Road and Coles Crescent.
- 8) Refuse collection times seem to coincide with 8.15-8.45am school arrival times which causes traffic (chaos).

Possible Solutions

The following comments and possible solutions/actions were suggested by the council. The same numbering applies as with Feedback.

- At present any vehicle can be parked in Welbeck Road by someone not from the area. Provided it is taxed and insured there is nothing the council can do to prevent such parking.
 - A controlled parking zone (CPZ) was suggested as a potential solution. A CPZ has advantages and disadvantages:

- only allows parking within bays during the operational hours by permit holders.
- Permits are only available to residents so this would address the issue of non resident parking.
- There is a cost to buying permits for residents or for their visitors.

It would be up to residents in general to decide if the benefits of a CPZ outweighed the costs. If a new CPZ is introduced just where there are parking problems parking tends to displace to just outside. For this reason the approach taken is to consult people in a wider area than are currently experiencing problems. If the consultation area is too wide people tend to reject the proposals as they do not see parking problems nearby. It is sometimes necessary to revisit an area to address peripheral parking problems. There was discussion on the extent of the consultation area. Appendix A shows the agreed area. A CPZ is only taken forward to statutory consultation where the majority of responses are in favour.

The possible hours of operation of such a new zone were discussed with an all day zone suggested by officers to ensure vehicles not just temporarily moved. Options for operational hours including all day and a shorter period will form part of the consultation.

Examples of CPZ consultation documents and copies of the "Parking" and "Can we help you?" booklets were shown as illustration for the type of consultation materials sent to each address.

The Met. Police were unable to attend the meeting but ahead of the meeting raised a potential concern of parking being displaced as a consequence of any CPZ proposals. These concerns will be discussed further based on the agreed consultation area (Appendix A).

- 2) Double yellow lines are normally proposed at junctions and sharp bends in the consultation area and an area potentially affected by displaced parking.
- 3) Single yellow lines are placed across driveways within a CPZ. These yellow lines usually extend about 1.5 metres (5 feet) either side of the driveway which improves access and visibility.
- 4) A separate traffic scheme to introduce a 20mph zone around Grange School is also being developed. Speed surveys are used to show where further traffic calming required. The various types of road hump were explained. Sets of smaller humps (speed cushions) are generally used as these slow most cars but can be straddled by emergency service vehicles like fire appliances. Most of the roads to the north east of the railway line (in West Harrow ward) already have traffic calming. There are "20 zones" signs at all entrances to 20mph zones. Residents will shortly be consulted on these proposals see Appendix B for plan. Chicanes are an alternative form of traffic calming, sometimes appropriate but result in loss of on street parking so probably not suitable for this area.
- 5) Post meeting note: The full length of Welbeck Road is due for resurfacing. The footways (pavements) will also be repaired. This work will be carried out in a coordinated operation during the 2014/15 financial year. Residents will be advised of the actual dates closer to the time. Further resurfacing of the roads in the Rayners Lane Estate will follow completion of the last of the building phases.

- 6) The roads are public highway and cannot normally have a weight restriction to prevent any lorry access if this prohibits practical access. TfL advised that due to the double bend in The Arches larger HGVs can only access the businesses at the Welbeck Road end of The Aches from Welbeck Road.
- 7) The issue of vehicles being driven on the footway to be investigated further and bollards considered as an option. If the problem is being created for larger vehicles/HGVs by obstructive parking the proposed double yellow lines may well help to address this issue.
- 8) Where practical refuse collection near school entrances sensibly avoids either end of the school day. Refuse collection have placed a specific direction to avoid Grange Primary School arrival time.

Timescales for the Parking Review

Meeting notes are being circulated. The feedback received will be used to formulate the consultation documents. These will include proposals for double yellow lines at junctions, bends etc. It is anticipated this consultation will go out early in 2014. The results of that consultation will be discussed with ward councillors before being formally reported along with recommendations of whatever restrictions and CPZ (if any) for decision by the Portfolio Holder. The timescale for this, the statutory consultation and implementation depends on the feedback received at each stage and the degree of controversy. It is expected that the process including implementation will be concluded within 2014/15 financial year.



