

Gareth Thomas MP
House Of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Bill will Present to Full council
on Thurs week. Then
referred to traffic and transport
dept
Lee Rehal
70 Parkside Way
North Harrow
HA2 6DG
13.9.05

RE: Deteriorating Road Surface of Parkside Way North Harrow

Dear Sir

As per our recent conversation regarding the above, I elaborate on the problem. You may be aware that over the past year or so much work has been carried out by the water and electricity authorities along Parkside Way. However the workmanship is of poor standard and has resulted in severe vibrations through the house (shaking of chandeliers, bed, which can be felt and seen). Several houses are affected by this (no's 60,61,62,64,65 66,67,68,69,71,71,72,74) and there may be more of which I am not aware.

I have collected 63 signatures from local residents showing their concern and discontent at the council's inability to resolve the suffering that they are subjected to on a daily basis. Members of the council (road committee) are more than welcome to monitor a couple of nights in my house and experience the shuddering of the bed between 2 or 3am and listen to the chandeliers shake. A number of residents have already complained to the council about this problem, only to be told that the thumps and strong vibrations are acceptable, which begs the question why would the people complain in the first place? This problem was not as noticeable perhaps 18 months or so ago and is not acceptable by any standard.

The following points are compounding the situation: -

1. Traffic volume has increased over the last couple of years due to traffic calming in the surrounding roads, however Parkside Way is local distributor of traffic and I accept traffic should be allowed to move but only in a controlled manner. Headstone Lane and Pinner View, which run parallel to Parkside Way, are also local distributors of traffic and yet Headstone Lane has a width restriction and Pinner View has a refuge crossing. Why is Parkside Way treated any differently?
2. The weight of traffic is unrelenting and has increased because there are no visible weight restriction signs and this results in damage to road surface and more importantly around the edges of the road and drains because the heavier vehicles are wide and certainly during peak times (early morning 2-4am & 9:30-4pm) the heavy vehicles deliberately travel at speed (speeds of 60mph are not uncommon), as the road is practically clear at these times. Visible signs alone will not be enough to deter hard-core drivers of heavy vehicles; only a physical deterrent will have a positive effect and reduce the damage to the road and surrounding buildings.

3. Strong vibrations/shaking felt in the houses mentioned above as well as others are a common occurrence. If this is allowed to continue it will further result in cracks appearing in internal as well as external walls. The cause of this is again by heavy vehicles and in certain cases weighing above the required limit (i.e. construction/waste trucks etc) and more importantly negligence on the part of the council for: -
 - No visual signs restricting weight limit on the road
 - Not having in place a visual/physical speed restriction

At this point let me make it very clear that the vibrations and thumps are caused by heavy vehicles and NOT through Airborne traffic-there are no Boeing 747 travelling along Parkside Way.

Let me also make it clear that the council has made a complete nonsense case by painting a couple of lines on the road and introducing a cycle lane thinking it will have a calming effect on the speed /weight of traffic. It does however endanger the lives of the few cyclists (approximately 3 per day) who try to use the lane. The reason for the cycle lane was more to do with the council obtaining a grant, which is the easier option rather than dealing with the real issues.

4. I understand that there is a zebra crossing at the junction of Headstone Gardens but due to the length of Parkside Way a pedestrian crossing in almost the middle of the road at the first entrance to the park would immensely help mothers with push chairs, elderly and young school children to cross the road safely. A pedestrian crossing will also force drivers to slow down at that point, in particular, heavy vehicles.

Conclusion

I would like to reiterate the actions that are needed to resolve the distressing and unnecessary appalling conditions suffered by the residents on a daily basis.

- Resurface the whole of Parkside Way to a standard that is set by the council, there is no need for a lengthy and unnecessary time wasting road survey to prove this. A visual common sense inspection will show the extent of damage. Also the number of people who support the petition is a clear indication that there is a problem here.
- Put in place strong visual signs showing clearly Speed and Weight restrictions and enforces them in conjunction with the police.
- A pedestrian crossing near the park entrance for residents and in particular young school children to cross safely.
- A physical deterrent to stem weight & speed of traffic, this would be in the form of speed cameras or a physical change to the road.

Approximately 65 signatures out of around 115 residents have expressed their disgust at the conditions they are subjected to and those who sign didn't were either not available or too elderly.

The council seems relentless in blindly continuing a cycle of patching the deteriorating road surface by the use of contractors who deliver sub-standard work. Then allowing a "free for all" for drivers to speed and heavy wide vehicles to damage the road, ultimately causing damage to residential property, not to mention the misery suffered by the residents.

The Harrow council tax is one of the highest in the land; I would stress that you now listen to those taxpayers and give them value for money and not empty words and certainly not insult their intelligence by having a couple of lines drawn on the road as a token gesture, i.e. a cycle lane.

The residents and myself want a long-term solution rather than a short-term fix.

Yours Sincerely

Lee Rehal

63 SIGNATURES

Petition: Residents Parkside Way North Harrow

1. To re-surface road on Parkside Way to required standard.
2. To introduce speed cameras.
3. Pedestrian Crossing

LEAD SIGNATURE - PLEASE CONTACT

Name	House No	Signature
REHAL	70	[Signature]
JACK HODDINOTT	72	[Signature]
Kerri Mahon	80	[Signature]
Gretta Mahon	80	[Signature]
G. COWDERY	84	[Signature]
M. Cunningham	86	[Signature]
D. MANNING	102	[Signature]
R.A.H. MALKOW	102	[Signature]
J.H. DAVE	100	[Signature]
LEWIS	104	[Signature]
R.B. Lewis	104	[Signature]
J.S. MURZA	119	[Signature]
VAKMI	117	[Signature]
A. Chitab	115	[Signature]
[Signature]	11	[Signature]