

DEPUTATION 2

Proposed Closure of Dennis Lane

My name is RG, I live in and represent the residents of Stanmore Hall which for those who may not know is in Wood Lane close to the junction with Stanmore Hill. We comprise 23 flats. 35 people reside here and 32 have signed the request for this deputation. I have also been asked to represent the interests of the Little Common Residents Association which I am happy to do. The association has written directly to yourself, Chair and to Cllr Henson, leader of the Council. We all oppose the closure of Dennis Lane.

Initially I would like to thank the chair for allowing us to send this deputation.

Secondly, I would like to complement the officers on a comprehensive and clear report. However, we are sorry not to see current traffic flow reports together with anticipated flows after the closure. How can considered decisions be made without them? Also, although chart 6 clearly shows 'Worse for the Community', and 'restricts access' as the leading views of those answering the questionnaire it would have been helpful to have seen individual site by site responses. Stanmore Hall & Little Common residents are surprised not to have been circulated individually by the Council about these proposals which we found out about totally by accident.

We do support the aims of the report in encouraging cycling and walking particularly for short journeys.

There are currently three roads which service Wood Lane running south to north. Brockley Hill, Dennis Lane and Stanmore Hill

Paragraph 2.29 of the report states that these proposals 'were developed by identifying neighbourhoods with established problems with vehicular traffic cutting through estates and causing environmental and road safety problems'.

I would like to take issue here with the report because any past traffic problems have been effectively eliminated by the installation of a width restriction and by three chicanes along Dennis Lane.

People do currently walk along Dennis Lane mainly as the most convenient and shortest route from the Wood Lane area to Stanmore Station. The pavements are wide enough to avoid too close a distance between walkers. People do not use Dennis Lane for recreational walks and never will. Why should they when much more picturesque walks are available, with an access 200 yards further along Wood Lane to the Stanmore Country Park or another 200 yards to Pear Wood or through Stanmore Common? And for a spectacular walk how about further up Stanmore Hill to the Bentley Priory Nature Reserve. I don't wish to upset our neighbours in Dennis Lane but a walk up and down their street is not a patch on the other 4 options.

Cyclist do use Dennis Lane now and will continue to do so
closure or no closure

So, the closure of Dennis Lane is unlikely to attract more
Walkers or more cyclist but what is likely to be the impact if
the closure does go ahead?

Residents beyond the width restriction in Dennis Lane will
encounter delays in emergency vehicles reaching them and
will be unable to receive deliveries particularly from
Supermarkets, due to the position of the current width
restriction.

Now what happens to those drivers who currently use Dennis
Lane in a northerly direction?

Those coming from Marsh Lane will probably turn left onto
an already congested Stanmore Broadway joining those
wishing to turn up Stanmore Hill at the lights. Those coming
from London Road will join the melee at the Dennis Lane
lights.

Heavens knows how many extra miles would be done by
these vehicles. Not very environmentally friendly is it?

So far we have managed to cause traffic jams at traffic lights
and pumped unnecessary exhaust fumes to be breathed in
by the toddlers at the Cottrell Nursey and the Stanmore
shoppers.

Now what happens to the current users of Dennis Lane who want to drive in a Southerly direction ?

Unable to drive down Dennis Lane the traffic will go mainly in one of two directions:

- 1) East along Wood Lane to the junction with Brockley Hill. At rush hours there is already a build-up of traffic wishing to turn into Brockley Hill so the build-up will get worse with idle traffic pumping fumes into the grounds of the RNOH and the Aspire Leisure Centre which is used for patient rehabilitation. OR
- 2) West along Wood Lane until its junction with Stanmore Hill. Again, during rush hours there is a build-up of traffic, often blocking our exit gate.

At this stage I would remind you that Wood Lane is a country lane not built as a through road but here you are wishing to pump more traffic into it!

The relatively recent housing developments off The Grove were given planning permission based on an ease of traffic dispersal which included Dennis Lane. Without that option the traffic will now be shunted along Wood Lane to either Brockley Hill or Stanmore Hill.

Users of the Hindu Temple currently having three options available to them when leaving. That option will be reduced to two.

Users of the Muslim Centre park their cars mainly in the Rugby Club car park. Again, their options with dispersal will be reduced by a third.

Planning permission for conversion of both of these sites was given on the assumption of some traffic flow down Dennis Lane. Both sites are operated responsibly and relationship with their neighbours are currently convivial. Will they remain convivial when through no fault of their own the users of these centres exacerbate traffic jams?

Should recovering patients at one of the country's leading Orthopaedic hospitals suffer increased traffic fumes?

During rush hour with the kids at school, here at Stanmore Hall we often have to wait for the traffic outside our exit gate to dissipate in order for us to drive out.

With the extra traffic forced to exit Wood Lane at the Stanmore Hill end there is a very good chance that our entry gate here at Stanmore Hall will be blocked in. Vehicles (unfortunately sometimes including ambulances) wishing to turn right from Wood Lane into Stanmore Hall may find their paths blocked. As they wait for the traffic to clear they will undoubtedly hold up cars behind them wishing to drive further along Wood Lane, thus causing major traffic jams possibly stretching into Stanmore Hill.

Stanmore Hall and Little Common are both part of Conservation Areas. On page 20 of Harrow's Conservation Policy document you will see that one of the key issues in this

area is 'Traffic along Wood Lane'. So, the proposal for closure of Dennis Lane which will undoubtedly increase traffic flow through our Conservation areas, is clearly contrary to your own policy. So, if you voluntarily break one of your own rules will you be able to uphold the others?

One of our residents, 88 years young S, potters around in the greenhouse which is against the wall flanking the road. Do we want him to be subject to increased car fumes?

One of our more senior citizens aged 93, for anonymity we will call her J, who still drives but sadly can't walk very well has emailed me with the following message. 'they are crazy changing a system that works well...go for it... and if you need my help let me know.'

The proposals in front of you will cause increased traffic jams, are environmentally unfriendly and break your own rules for conservation areas.

For the sake of the residents in Stanmore Hall and Little Common, the users of the Muslim Centre, the users of the Hindu Temple, the patients at the RNOH, the residents off The Grove but particularly for Stuart and Jane, please remove Dennis Lane from your list of road closures.

I am happy to take any questions from the panel.