

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY PANEL

WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2004

Petition Objecting to the Traffic Scheme in Stafford Road

Reference from Council – 29 April 2004

1. At the meeting of Council held on 29 April 2004, Councillor John Nickolay presented a petition signed by 66 persons in the following terms:
 1. Impact on residential parking problems outside school hours (i.e. after 6 pm and weekends). Parking outside school hours is already a major problem, and will be exacerbated by these measures. Residential amenity will be severely reduced. (See Appendix A).
 2. Residents are and have not been aware of cars exceeding the speed limit on Stafford Road, and there is not a lot of traffic in general. We have no objection to a reduction in the speed limit to 20 mph. However, there is no evidence that it will be necessary to construct speed humps on Stafford Road in order to enforce a speed limit.
 3. Parking restrictions should be restricted to school times – restrictions outside school times are detrimental to residential amenity with no benefits to schools. This would be an unreasonable exercise of power by the Council.
 4. Safety and Noise. Speed bumps slow down emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire engines. In addition, we are concerned by the noise caused by speed humps. This is a quiet road, which is a major selling point.
 5. Speed humps will also have a detrimental effect on property prices and rental income, as speed humps are so unpopular with prospective buyers and tenants.
2. A copy of the first page of the petition is attached as an appendix to this report.
3. Council RESOLVED that the petition be referred to the Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel for consideration.
4. The Interim Head of Environment and Transport advises that:
 - i. In September 2001 the Traffic and Road Safety Panel received a petition of 281 signatures seeking either a school safety zone or traffic calming measures in Whittlesea Road. There had also been earlier lobbying for a footway parking scheme in Whittlesea Road.

- ii. In September 2002 a programme of 20mph zones around schools was agreed as a basis for funding bids to Transport for London. The aspirations for a school safety zone, traffic calming and footway parking around Cedars School were brought together in a 20mph zone scheme for which funding was won from TfL.
- iii. Proposals were developed with the involvement of Head Teachers, local residents' representatives and ward councillors. Two options were developed for consultation in Spring 2003. Consultation leaflets were distributed to residents and parents of school pupils and a manned exhibition was held on 6th May at Cedars Middle School. In addition, a permanent unmanned display was placed in the local library. 123 responses were received, giving clear support for the proposals. Some minor amendments were made to the proposals to reflect feedback received. A number of 'statutory' consultees were also consulted eg residents' associations, road user groups, disabled persons' representatives, pedestrian organisations, emergency services etc.
- iv. The consultation results were reported to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transportation in January 2004 (decision ref: PHD 074/03) when officers were authorised to proceed with the traffic order making and associated statutory consultation.
- v. Following publication of the statutory notices, 3 objections were received, one backed by a 66 signature petition. The petition was addressed to officers and received by them on 23rd March. The Portfolio Holder was briefed on the objections to the scheme and the objective of implementing the scheme in the school summer holidays if the objections are overruled. On this basis, he agreed to receive a Portfolio Holder report to consider the objections, including the petition. The head petitioner was advised that a report was being prepared and was invited to discuss the matter in more detail with officers if he wished.
- vi. The petition was subsequently (re)presented by Cllr John Nickolay to Council on 29th April, where it was referred to the Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel.
- vii. Ward councillors were consulted on a copy of the draft report and one raised a number of minor points (reported in Section 3 of the report) as well as welcoming the proposed further investigation into improving parking conditions in Stafford Road.
- viii. The Portfolio Holder considered the objections, including the petition, and agreed that the scheme be implemented and "that officers investigate a number of options through which parking could be improved in Stafford Road, together with their cost, and assess whether such a proposal is justified." (PHD 006/04).

- ix. This Portfolio Holder decision was subject to a call-in and the Overview and Scrutiny Call-in Sub-Committee concluded that the decision should be implemented. Implementation is underway.
- x. A further report on the options for improving parking conditions in Stafford Road will be presented when the investigation is completed.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background documents: Petition presented to Council on 29 April 2004
Minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 April 2004

Contact: Ben Jones, Room 143, Committee Section. Direct Dial: 020 8424 1883
E-mail: ben.jones@harrow.gov.uk