

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY PANEL**

**WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2004**

**Petition from residents of Wynchgate and Whitegate Gardens on an urgent matter of public safety**

**Reference from the Cabinet meeting held on 29 July 2004**

1. At the meeting of the Cabinet held on 29 July 2004, Councillor Miss Lyne presented a petition signed by 102 persons from 68 properties on an urgent matter of public safety.

The terms of the petition are as follows:

“We, the undersigned residents of Wynchgate and Whitegate Gardens, petition the Council on an urgent matter of public safety. Recently an ambulance was obstructed by school parking on and around the small roundabout at the junction of Wynchgate and Whitegate Gardens. We fear that owing to this constant inconsiderate parking any emergency vehicle will be delayed leading to serious consequences for local residents.

We therefore urge the Council to consider further and effective parking restrictions during the School Safety Zone period. These restrictions should apply to the area surrounding the small roundabout for the safety of all residents.”

2. A copy of the first page of the petition is attached as an appendix to this report. The first signatory to the petition has been informed that Cabinet has referred the petition to the Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel.
3. The Cabinet RESOLVED, inter alia, that the petition be referred to the Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel for consideration.
4. The Interim Head of Environment and Transport has advised as follows.
  - 4.1 Obstructive parking at school start and finish times is a problem in Wynchgate and Whitegate Avenue despite the introduction of a school safety zone and other waiting restrictions in the immediate vicinity of the school entrance. The extent of the problem surrounding the small roundabout at the junction between Wynchgate and Whitegate Avenue or elsewhere has not been studied due to summer holiday period. A location plan showing existing restrictions is at Appendix 2.
  - 4.2 The Council is working with the school on travel planning and is aware the school have raised with parents the need to park considerately if they have to bring their children to school by car. However, parking problems are known to persist on school safety zone markings and other waiting restrictions near the school entrance. Enforcement of the restrictions is difficult because many drivers are in or near their vehicle and simply move off a short distance before parking enforcement officers can issue tickets.
  - 4.3 The strength of local support for restriction appears high and obstructive parking at this location affects access to nearly a hundred households and one of the two school entrances. It is therefore recommended that officers investigate, design and consult on

further waiting restrictions to address the problem of obstructive parking. Similar obstructive parking problems have been reported in the past in Robin Hood Drive and Chestnut Drive. These areas should therefore be included in the investigation to ensure that a comprehensive assessment is carried out within the whole area of influence of the schools. Due to the noted current non compliance with existing restriction and that parking close to junctions causes obstruction at any time of day double yellow lines may be necessary to provide sufficient deterrent effect.

- 4.4 It is therefore **recommended (for decision by the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder) that officers investigate, design and consult on further waiting restrictions to address the problem of obstructive parking and the Head petitioner by notified accordingly.**

#### FOR CONSIDERATION

##### Background Papers

1. Minutes of Cabinet held on 29 July 2004.
2. Petition presented by Councillor Miss Lyne to Cabinet on 29 July 2004.

Contact: Daksha Ghelani, Committee Section, Law and Administration Division.

Tel: (Direct Line) 020 8424 1881

E-mail: daksha.ghelani@harrow.gov.uk