

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members:

Councillor Aidan Smith (Chair), Councillors David Gardner, Denise Hyland, Sizwe James, Christine May and Matthew Clare

Officers

Assistant Director - Transportation, Head of Highways, Parking Services Manager, Senior Transport Planner and Corporate Governance Officer

Other People in Attendance

Councillor Denise Scott-McDonald, Cabinet Member for Air Quality, Sustainability and Transport

The Chair varied the order of business and took Item 8 after Item 4

Item

No.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Brain, Bill Freeman and Gary Parker.

2 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

3 Declarations of Interest

Resolved -

That the list of Councillors' memberships as Council appointed representatives on outside bodies, joint committees and school governing bodies be noted.

4 Minutes

Resolved -

That the minutes of the meeting of the Highways Committee held on 19 June 2019 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

5 Response to a Petition – Request for the Planting of Street Trees in Commerell Street SE10

The report was presented by the Head of Highways.

Members discussed the feasibility of tree planting in the Street, and if it would require a build out. A point was raised, referring to Item 6 on the agenda, about consideration being given to planting in one part of the borough and not another.

Officers advised on what funding might be available via the Mayor of London, and on the tree sponsoring process.

Resolved –

1. That the petition requesting that street trees be planted by the Council in Commerell Street, SE10 be noted; and
2. That the proposed response to the petition as set out in the report which will be summarised and reported to Council on 30 October 2019 be noted.

6 Response to a Petition – Request for the Planting of Street Trees in Wilton Road SE2

The report was presented by the Head of Highways. It was clarified what was possible in the road, and the division of responsibility for the road between Greenwich and Bexley councils.

Members commented that the residents saw Abbey Wood as a village, and that its character was being affected by the developments. While there had been significant improvements the station end looked bleak. It was queried that if there could not be extra trees could planters be used; if nothing more was possible could consideration be given to nearby roads.

The Head of Highways advised that there was less space on the Bexley side for planting. Another consideration was where the utilities ran underneath. The forecourt of the public house was private land, and the pub might want to use it for seating.

Members requested that if nothing extra could be done in Wilton Road, that consideration be given to Abbey Wood Road or McLeod Road.

Action: DRES (Highways)

Resolved -

1. That the petition requesting that street trees be planted by the Council in Wilton Road, SE2 be noted; and
2. That the proposed response to the petition as set out in the report which will be summarised and reported to Council on 30 October 2019 be noted.

7 Response to a Petition Regarding a Request for a Review of Parking Controls in Beaconsfield Road SE3

The report was presented by the Parking Services Manager

In response to questions from the Committee, the Parking Services Manager replied that parking zones would be future-proofed to prevent gaps or islands. It was noted that that had been a low response to the previous parking review for this road.

Resolved -

1. That the petition from residents of Beaconsfield Road requesting that an urgent review of the parking controls on Beaconsfield Road is undertaken be noted; and
2. That the response to the petition as set out in the report which will be reported to Council on 30 October 2019 be noted.

8 Response to a Petition regarding traffic volumes along Kidbrooke Gardens SE3

The report was presented by the Senior Transport Planner. He highlighted the meeting that had been held on 26 June 2019.

In response to questions from the Committee in relation to TfL, the Senior Transport Planner replied that TfL was against closing the road because of the impact on the A2. A model was needed for traffic lights; it would be challenging to get pedestrians across the road without lights.

The Assistant Director – Transportation added that the scheme would be paid for by TfL and if they did not like it they would withdraw the funding. A balance had to be struck between the healthy streets strategy and the strategic network as TfL had an obligation to keep traffic moving.

In response to questions from the Committee about cyclists, the Senior Transport Planner confirmed that the cycle route was along the Rochester Way. He added that having traffic lights would be one component of improvements for cyclists. Other interventions would be needed, they might have to look further way to stop them cutting down this road.

The Committee was addressed by the lead petitioner. He commented on the previous history in relation to the Quietways proposal. He felt there was a lack of transparency with TfL with how they were deciding things; he requested that the Council push TfL to demonstrate their model.

The Committee was addressed by the co-ordinator of Greenwich Cyclists. He related the position in relation to cyclists. The issue of the impact on air quality was raised.

In response to further questions from the Committee the Senior Transport Planner said that one challenge was TfL's changing response. It was agreed that they needed to be more robust with TfL.

The Assistant Director – Transportation confirmed that Officers could look at moving traffic offences from next year.

The lead petitioner noted that when the road had been shut for works by Thames Water there had been no impact on the A2 and no displacement had been seen. He wondered if they did not have traffic lights could a zebra crossing be installed instead. The co-ordinator of Greenwich Cyclists commented on the feasibility of a bus lane on the A2.

Members queried whether there could be an experimental road closure to test the effect. It was felt that they needed to get TfL in, that matters needed to be escalated.

Resolved -

1. That the petition from residents of Kidbrooke Gardens expressing concern about traffic volumes be noted; and
2. That the response to the petition as set out in the report which will be reported to Council on 30 October 2019 be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Chair