

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 7 JULY 2021 AT 6.30 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members:

Councillor Bill Freeman (Chair), Councillors David Gardner (from Item 8), Mick Hayes, Christine May, Gary Parker (from Item 8), Sarah Merrill, Aidan Smith and Matthew Clare

Officers

(Interim) Assistant Director Transportation; Head of Highways; Principal Road Safety Officer; Committee Services Officer

Other Members in Attendance

Councillor Geoffrey Brighty

Item

No.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Brooks

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 2 June 2021 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

5 Winchcomb Gardens – Petition Requesting Road Resurfacing and Street Improvements

The Head of Highways gave an illustrated introduction to the report.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Head of Highways emphasised that there was a limited budget, and he highlighted the process of selecting streets for resurfacing. He explained that there was an exemption from enforcement against parking on the pavement in Winchcomb Gardens due to lack of space to park fully in the road. He confirmed there was an existing path bisecting the green in the middle.

The Committee was addressed by the lead petitioner. She stated she had lived there for 46 years and the road had never been completely re-tarmacked in that time. She commented on the potholes and the poor state of the road. She explained that mothers had to walk in the road with their prams because the cars had to park halfway on the pavement. [*The petitioner was disrupted by connection difficulties*].

During discussion of the matter, Members commented that any new path across the green should be permeable and suggested a bark chip path might be suitable for pedestrians. It was queried whether trees could be planted under the adopt-a-tree policy. Officers were requested to see if even part of the proposed works could be done in the next year's budget.

Resolved –

That the proposed petition response as stated in Section 6 in the report, and that it will be reported to Council on 21 July 2021, be noted.

6 Response to a Petition to reverse the West Greenwich Road Closures (Hills & Vales)

The Principal Road Safety Officer gave an illustrated introduction to the report.

The Committee was addressed by the representative of the lead petitioner. She highlighted that a majority of local people did not want the scheme and that the impact has been way out of proportion to any benefit that people had derived from it. She noted that the new Cabinet Member for Environment, Sustainability and Transport was putting in hand much better consultation for the schemes. It was felt that the schemes were not really for a low traffic neighbourhood but instead divided areas forcing traffic and congestion elsewhere. It was considered that the Experimental Traffic Order had not been properly implemented.

The Committee was addressed by Councillor Geoffrey Brighty. He noted that there did seem to be a shift in attitude recently by the authority, and that there had been acknowledgement that road closures had had the predictable effect of an unacceptable increase in traffic on roads elsewhere. He commented that the proposal to reopen a closed road during the morning peak time might alleviate some of the pressure, but queried what would happen if Greenwich Park did not re-open for through traffic at the morning peak; he asked what the plan was if current proposals to alleviate matters did not work. He emphasised that the public needed to know the results of the consultations.

Resolved -

That the proposed petition response as stated in Section 6 in the report, and that it will be reported to Council on 21 July 2021, be noted.

7 Response to a Petition regarding the implementation of a low traffic neighbourhood in the Westcombe Park and Maze Hill area

The Principal Road Safety Officer gave an illustrated introduction to the report.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Principal Road Safety Officer confirmed that the aim was to bring together all the different strands, the different views and different stakeholders; it would be a tremendous task because of the different sorts of information. He emphasised that they wanted to make sure that everybody was listened to and their views taken on board and they were working out the best way to engage with all the right stakeholders to make sure they could progress with a set of proposals that worked for the majority.

Resolved -

That the proposed petition response as stated in Section 6 in the report, and that it will be reported to Council on 21 July 2021, be noted.

8 Response to a Petition regarding residents' exemption using ANPR in East Greenwich

The Principal Road Safety Officer gave an illustrated introduction to the report.

Resolved -

That the proposed petition response as stated in Section 6 in the report, and that it will be reported to Council on 21 July 2021, be noted.

9 Response to a Petition against the fixed closure of Halstow Road as part of the proposals for the Westcombe Park and Maze Hill area LTN

The Principal Road Safety Officer gave an illustrated introduction to the report.

Resolved -

That the proposed petition response as stated in Section 6 in the report, and that it will be reported to Council on 21 July 2021, be noted.

10 Response to a Petition calling for consultation on the proposals for the Horn Park and Weigall Road Area LTN

The Principal Road Safety Officer gave an illustrated introduction to the report.

Comments from Councillor Charlie Davis had been previously circulated to the Committee. Councillor Matt Clare informed the Committee that Councillor Spencer Drury's comments were that he was not happy with a paper exercise he wanted a proper consultation.

In response to a question from the Committee, the Principal Road Safety Officer replied confirmed that Officers had been engaging with Lewisham and the results of the implementation of the Lewisham schemes had been noted.

There would be further engagement as the Horn Park and Weigall Road scheme was progressed, and Officers would take into account the effect the Lewisham schemes were having on the road network in Greenwich borough.

Resolved -

That the proposed petition response as stated in Section 6 in the report, and that it will be reported to Council on 21 July 2021, be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.07pm

Chair