

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	DATE 14.10.2021	ITEM NO 6
TITLE Response to a Petition regarding illegal and dangerous driving in Vanbrugh Hill, Calvert Road and Annandale Road	WARD(S) Blackheath Westcombe, Peninsula	
CHIEF OFFICER Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills	CABINET MEMBER Environment, Sustainability & Transport	
Non-Exempt report Non-exempt appendices	IS THE FINAL DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT TO BE MADE AT THIS MEETING? No Recommendations endorsed by Highways Committee will be reported to the next available meeting of Full Council for approval.	

I. Decision required

The Highways Committee is requested to:

- 1.1 Note the petition calling for immediate action to punish illegal driving, with sustained action thereafter and for a comprehensive and inclusive review of traffic calming in East Greenwich (and beyond).
- 1.2 Note the response to the petition as set out in this report which will be reported to Full Council on 27th October 2021.

2. Links to the Royal Greenwich high level objectives

- 2.1 This report relates to the Council's agreed high-level objectives as follows:
 - A Healthier Greenwich
 - A Safer Greenwich
 - A Great Place to Grow Up
 - A Great Place to Be

3. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 3.1 A petition containing 165 signatures was presented to the meeting of Council on 23 June 2021 by Councillor Chris Lloyd.

3.2 The petitioners have requested that immediate action to punish illegal driving, with sustained action thereafter such as ANPR enforcement cameras and a comprehensive and inclusive review of the traffic issues in East Greenwich (and beyond).

3.3 The substance of the petition reads:

“We write to express concern at illegal and dangerous driving occurring on Vanbrugh Hill, Calvert Road and Annandale Road which has escalated in recent months. This includes:

1. Northbound traffic on Vanbrugh Hill at peak times frequently driving on the wrong side of the road at high speed to overtake stationary traffic queuing at the lights. Vehicles often drive for long distances on the wrong side of the road (sometimes around the blind bend) and then turn right onto Annandale Road, Calvert Road or Hawthorne Crescent, or drive all the way to the front of the queue at the lights.

2. Many of the aforementioned drivers turn into Calvert and Annandale Roads at high speed (still) on the wrong side of the road and continue to rat-run at high speed – breaking the 20mph speed limit – to get onto Woolwich Road.

We believe this is a serious public safety issue and fear that it is only a matter of time until someone is seriously injured or killed due to a head-on collision between vehicles, or a pedestrian or cyclist being knocked down. There are many school-aged children in this area who travel to local schools on foot or by bicycle. Many parents are concerned that in the current climate, active travel for their family is unsafe and unviable.

It should also be noted that drivers are frequently verbally aggressive to pedestrians and cyclists, with efforts by residents to remonstrate with drivers often met with vitriolic abuse and even threats.

Despite residents raising these concerns individually to the authorities, including submitting video footage to the police, there appears to have been little or no response so far. Hence, we are writing collectively to show the widespread level of concern about this matter in the hope that this will finally lead to tangible action.

A further issue is the difficulty in crossing Vanbrugh Hill to get to Maze Hill Station because – in addition to reckless driving – there is no safe designated crossing point in the Calvert Road / Annandale Road section of Vanbrugh Hill. Although there is an unmarked crossing point adjacent to Annandale Road with tactile paving, this is inadequate. Not least because the kerb on the east side isn't fully dropped, making

it difficult and dangerous for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs to cross the road.

The recent substantial increase in both idling and speeding peak hours traffic in this area has also led to further deterioration of the already poor air quality. This is also a substantial concern for local residents.

We are therefore asking for the following:

1. Immediate action to punish this illegal driving, with sustained action thereafter such as ANPR enforcement cameras.

2. A comprehensive and inclusive review of the traffic issues in East Greenwich (and beyond), including: consideration of traffic calming measures on Calvert and Annandale Roads; measures to make crossing Vanbrugh Hill easier for access to Maze Hill station, and; an holistic review of the Vanbrugh Hill / Trafalgar Road / Woolwich Road / Blackwall Lane junction with particular emphasis on making it more coherent and user friendly for pedestrians, wheelchair users and cyclists, particularly in light of issues with the new cycle lane layout, the loss of bus stops, and inadequate pedestrian crossings and yellow box junction”.

3.4 The proposed approach to responding to the petition is set out in this report.

In summary,

a) A review and investigation to determine various measures to address concerns raised by the residents.

4. Introduction and Background

4.1 The petition was referred to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise & Skills as the relevant Chief Officer, for investigation and response. This report sets out the outcome of that investigation and the available options for response.

4.2 Vanbrugh Hill is an unclassified road that runs on a North/South bearing. The northern section is in the Peninsular Ward and the southern section in the Blackheath Westcombe Ward. The road is a bus route for the 386 service, is within an 20mph zone and has existing traffic calming consisting of speed cushions and tables.

4.3 Annandale Road is an unclassified road in the Peninsular Ward that runs between Vanbrugh Hill and the A206 Woolwich Road. The road is within a 20 mph zone and has existing traffic calming consisting of speed humps and tables.

- 4.4 Calvert Road is an unclassified road in the Peninsular Ward that runs between Vanbrugh Hill and the A206 Woolwich Road. The road is within a 20 mph zone and has existing traffic calming consisting of speed humps, tables and cushions.
- 4.5 The Royal Borough engaged with residents and other stakeholders earlier this year on initial proposals for the Maze Hill and Westcombe Park area Low Traffic Neighbourhood and all of the responses to the consultation on these initial proposals (which closed on 8th March 2021), are publicly available on the Council's Commonplace platform.
- 4.6 The three roads that are the subject of the petition fall within the area of the above initial proposals for the Maze Hill and Westcombe Park area Low Traffic Neighbourhood. Following the consultation carried out earlier this year on these proposals, more in depth traffic analysis and engagement are to be undertaken to further develop our wider traffic management proposals, including plans for this area. The issues raised within this petition can therefore be considered as part of this ongoing work.
- 4.7 The driver behaviour described in the petition (driving for long distances on the wrong side of the road to overtake stationary traffic and driving at speeds in excess of the posted speed limits) are not moving traffic contraventions for which the Royal Borough has powers to enforce. Enforcement of these offences can only be carried out by the Police.
- 4.8 On Wednesday 16th June 2021, police officers from the Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS) Peninsula, Woolwich Riverside and Greenwich West Safer Neighbourhoods Teams conducted a traffic operation in Vanbrugh Hill following reports of poor driver behaviour. Officers were on site between 0800 and 0930 and reported eight drivers for driving without due care and attention. The Police made a commitment at that time to repeat the operation in the future and to continue to do so.
- 4.9 Officers from the Royal Borough's Road Safety Team have liaised with the local MPS Community Roadwatch Coordinator to request that Vanbrugh Hill be considered for inclusion within this scheme ([Community Roadwatch - Transport for London \(tfl.gov.uk\)](https://www.tfl.gov.uk)). Roadwatch were confirmed to be on Vanbrugh Hill on the 13 September 2021 with further dates planned.
- 4.10 Officers from the Royal Borough's Traffic Team have liaised with the MPS Traffic Management Officer for the borough regarding the reported driver behaviour and will continue to monitor traffic in the area.

- 4.11 Officers of the Royal Borough's Traffic Team will explore possibilities for regulatory, warning signs and road markings to deter overtaking as well as an increased amount of 20mph warning signs/roadmarking to reinforce the speed limit.
- 4.12 Officers of the Royal Borough's Traffic Team will commit to exploring the option to provide a formal pedestrian crossing in Vanbrugh Hill, to provide a safe crossing point for pedestrians as well as reducing the speed of vehicles.
- 4.13 Officers also identified on site that there are crossing facilities in the vicinity of Calvert Road and Annandale Road respectively, that are not suitable for pedestrians with wheelchairs and pushchairs. These findings will be reviewed.

5. Available Options

5.1 The available options are as follows:

- i) Highway Committee to note the receipt of the petition and endorse officers' recommendations to:
- consider the concerns raised in the petition as part of the further development work for traffic management measures within the area (as outlined in paragraph 4.6 of this report);
 - explore the inclusion of measures to the current highway configuration (as identified in paragraphs 4.11 and 4.12 of this report); and
 - continue co-ordination with the Metropolitan Police Service regarding their enforcement activity and inclusion within the Community Roadwatch programme (as detailed in paragraphs 4.9 and 4.10 of this report).
- ii) The receipt of the petition be noted by the Highways Committee, and retention of the current highway configuration.

6. Preferred Option

6.1 The preferred option is Option 'i' the receipt of the petition be noted by the Highways Committee, and explore measures identified in paragraphs 4.11 to 4.13 of this report.

7. Reason for Recommendation

- 7.1 Whilst engagement on early traffic proposals in this area has been undertaken, the scheme proposals are still in development and this request can be considered as part of the further development of and consultation on proposals.
- 7.2 Due to concerns raised by the residents, investigation is required to determine safety measures needed on Vanbrugh Hill and its side roads.
- 7.3 The cost of the works to be funded by TfL LIP funding for 21/22 and is estimated to cost approximately £55,000. Subject to TfL Settlement figure after December 2021 or alternative funding sources will be explored.

8. Consultation Results

- 8.1 Engagement on the traffic management proposals for the Maze Hill and Westcombe Park area was undertaken in early 2021 and the results are still being analysed. More engagement with residents and other stakeholders is planned before progressing further.
- 8.2 Should proposals for the Maze Hill and Westcombe Park area Low Traffic Neighbourhood be progressed, the proposals are likely to be carried out as part of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order process and any representations received in response to the statutory consultation carried out as part of that process would be considered alongside scheme monitoring results.

9. Cross-Cutting Issues and Implications

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Legal including Human Rights Act	The Highways Committee is requested to note the petition presented by Councillor Chris Lloyd to the Council meeting held on 23 June 2021, and to comment upon the proposed response to this petition, as outlined in this report. Article 3.01(a) of the Council's Constitution provides that residents of the Borough may bring concerns to the	Eleanor Penn, Assistant Head of Legal Services (Planning & Procurement), 29 th September 2021

	<p>direct attention of the Council by asking a member to present a petition. Paragraph A1.19 of Part 4 of the Constitution requires that petitions are referred to the relevant Chief Officer for investigation and response. The outcome of the investigation is to be reported back to full Council within two meetings.</p>	
Finance and other resources	<p>The report notes the submission of a petition regarding illegal and dangerous driving in Vanbrugh Hill, Calvert Road and Annandale Road and the Councils response to the petition. Whilst engagement on early traffic proposals in this area has been undertaken, the scheme proposals are still in development. The estimated £55,000 cost of the proposed works can be funded by TfL LIP funding for 21/22 subject to TfL Settlement figure after December 2021 or alternative funding sources.</p>	<p>Sue Rock Accountancy Business Change Manager 29/09/2021</p>
Equalities	<p>Decision-maker is aware of the requirement under the Public Sector Equality Duty (s149 of the Equality Act 2010). This report makes contribution to the Council's Equality and Equity Charter and the Council's Equality Objectives 2020-2024. Specifically HEMS, contributing to a healthy and safe environment as well as contributions to social care and health. Also providing safer public realm environment, making improvements to accessibility and walking.</p>	<p>Olu Soyoye Principal Traffic Engineer 24/09/21</p>
Climate change	<p>This report proposes no decision or action, so has no impact on climate change. The decisions referred to in the report will include appropriate assessments of their impact on climate change.</p>	<p>Olu Soyoye Principal Traffic Engineer 24/09/21</p>

10. **Background Papers**

- None

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