

Council Meeting
3 November 2009

REPORT OF THE ACTING DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER
AGENDA ITEM 5.3

5.3.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On Tuesday 20th October 2009, the Planning and Environment Committee deferred consideration of the Brent Cross/Cricklewood planning application to seek Council's approval on the suspension of the relevant Standing Orders, Constitution Part 4 - Council Procedure Rules, Section 4, Public Participation (5.2, 5.3 and 5.14). Currently, these Standing Orders allow a maximum of four speakers, including the applicant, to address the committee. It is proposed that these Council Procedure Rules be suspended to allow members of the public requesting to speak an opportunity to do so at the Planning and Environment Committee meeting proposed to be held on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th November 2009.

The views of the Director of Planning Housing & Regeneration are set out as follows:-

The Brent Cross Cricklewood planning application is one of the largest and most complex in London and its scale is unprecedented in Barnet. It has involved a multi-disciplinary approach and extensive and detailed technical analysis over the course of the past 18 months prior to officers presenting their recommendations. Significant engagement has also taken place with a wide range of statutory and non-statutory bodies and more than 20,000 residential and business addresses have been notified in relation to the original and revised applications during two five week consultation periods. Over 600 formal representations have been submitted to the planning department.

The officer's report to committee is substantial, covering a significant range of issues and outlining all representations received.

A significant number of individuals, in addition to 5 elected representatives, have formally requested to address the Planning and Environment Committee. The applicants have also confirmed that they wish to exercise their right to reply. Part 4 of the Council's Constitution - Council Procedure Rules Section 4 – Public Participation - currently permit only 3 persons and the applicant to speak for a maximum of 3 minutes each.

Given the exceptional nature of the application, the significance of the issues concerned and the interest these have generated, it is considered appropriate, in this specific instance, to allow all those who, at the time of publishing this report, have asked to speak to do so. This will enable all supporting and objecting views to be heard by members and allow for a full and proper debate of the matters arising.

However, given the very significant proposed extension in the numbers permitted to address the Committee and the need to still have the efficient and expeditious disposal of the business of the committee, no further requests to address the committee will be acceded to.

Each speaker would have a maximum of 3 minutes to address the committee and be subject to members questions as normally permitted. As similar issues are likely to be raised, speakers will be encouraged by the Chairman to avoid repetition in the interest of timeliness.

The 3 minutes limitation is, however, considered insufficient for the applicant to be able to properly respond, given the number of speaking objectors and, therefore, it is recommended that this be extended to a maximum of 20 minutes in the interest of fairness and to enable the committee to hear responses from the applicant to all of the objections.

It is intended that the public speaking arrangements will be dealt in the first committee session on 18 November 2009, leaving the rest of that session and a further session (if needed) on the following evening of 19 November 2009 to focus on a discussion of the application and the recommendations within the report. Based on a suggested earlier start time of 6.30pm and having regard to an indicative committee programme it is considered that the committee will be able to conclude its business within the planned period.

The suspension of this Standing Order is only applicable to the proposed meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee on 18th and 19th November 2009 considering the Brent Cross/Cricklewood planning application.

Aside from the extension in the permitted number of speakers and the maximum length of time allowed for the applicant to respond, all other Public Participation Rules in Section 4 of the Council Procedure Rules remain the same.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That the Council Procedure Rules (Section 4, Public Participation, Paragraphs 5.2; 5.5 and 5.14) relating to the maximum number of members of the public permitted to speak on a planning application being considered by the Planning & Environment Committee be suspended for the purpose of consideration of the planning application for Brent Cross/Cricklewood at the proposed meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee on 18th and 19th November 2009. The extent of the suspension shall operate to permit individual members of the public who, at the time of the publication of this report, have signified to the Acting Democratic Services Manager their wish to address the Committee, to do so. The suspension shall not operate to permit any further members of the public to address the Committee.**
- 2. That the provisions relating to the deadline for submitting requests to speak and ask questions at the said Planning & Environment Committee as set out in the Council Procedure Rules - Section 4, Public Participation, Paragraph 6.1 and 6.4 be suspended and that no requests additional to**

those received at the time of publication of this report shall be accepted by the relevant Area Planning Officer or by the Democratic Services Manager.

3. That Council Procedure Rules - Section 4, Public Participation, Paragraph 5.13 be varied at the said Planning & Environment Committee so that a maximum time of 20 minutes be permitted for the applicant to address the Committee in responding to points made by members of the public when addressing the Committee upon the planning application relating to Brent Cross/Cricklewood.

5.3. 2 RESPONSE FROM LORD COE, CHAIRMAN OF THE LONDON ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES (LOCOG)

Council are asked to note Lord Coe's response (Appendix 1) to Motion 3.4 (Council, 8th September 2009) in the name of Councillor Matthew Offord on the 2012 Olympics Road Cycling Route.

Aysen Giritli
Acting Democratic Services Manager

Mr Nick Walkley
Chief Executive
Barnet Council
North London Business Park
Oakleigh Road South
London
N11 1NP



14th October 2009

Dear Mr Walkley,

Thank you for your letter.

I was sorry to hear your concerns regarding the Road Cycling route for the London 2012 Games and I appreciate you writing to me personally.

As your councillors have correctly identified, we are currently exploring routes for the London 2012 Road Cycling events following the feedback that we received from the UCI (International Cycling Union). As we continue to explore alternative routes, no final decision has been made for Games in 2012.

I have passed your letter on to the relevant teams here at London 2012 and I have asked my team to keep your office informed as we develop and progress the matter.

Thank you for writing.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Sebastian Coe'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Sebastian Coe KBE
Chairman