

**AGENDA ITEM: 7**

Page nos. 4 - 7

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Meeting	Finchley and Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee
Date	23 September 2008
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Member's Item – Ways to reduce traffic and make The Groves, NW2 safer</b>
Report of	Democratic Services Manager
Summary	This report informs the Sub-Committee of a Member's Item and requests instructions from the Sub-Committee.

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Officer Contributors	Claire Mehegan - Democratic Services Officer Ian Counce - Chief Highways Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	Childs Hill
Enclosures	None
For decision by	Finchley and Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	Not applicable

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Contact for further information: Claire Mehegan, Democratic Services - Tel: 020 8359 2205

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 That the actions of the Director of Environment & Transport be noted.

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

2.1 None

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

3.1 The matter raised relates to the corporate priority of 'Barnet - A successful city-suburb', specifically 'Improving transport and infrastructure'.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

4.1 None in the context of this report.

## **5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

5.1 Members' Items allow members of the Sub-Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of the Sub-Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

## **6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

6.1 Any potential budgetary implications that might arise from this item will be covered in the Environment and Transport Team's oral report to the Sub-Committee.

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

7.1 None

## **8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

8.1 Constitution Part 3 - Responsibility for Functions - Area Environment Sub-Committees perform functions that are the responsibility of the Executive including highways use and regulation not the responsibility of the Council, within the boundaries of their areas in accordance with Council policy and within budget.

8.2 Council Procedure Rules Section 2 – Committees and Sub-Committees – 7.1 A member will be permitted to have one matter only (with no sub-items) on the agenda for a meeting of a committee or sub-committee on which he/she serves.

8.3 The Democratic Services Manager must receive written notice of a Member's Item, at least seven clear working days before the meeting. A working day is deemed to end at 11pm. Any item received after 11pm will be recorded as

received on the next working day. The item must be signed by the Member and delivered by hand, fax or e-mail.

- 8.4 If the Sub-Committee wishes to pursue this matter further, it will be necessary to instruct the Director of Environment and Transport to produce a safety scheme and costing in respect of this item and report to a future meeting; such report to address funding issues.

## **9 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 9.1 Councillor Monroe Palmer has submitted a Member's Item regarding The Groves, NW2 in the following terms:

"What I propose is:

- That another traffic survey is carried out which is NOT in school holiday period
- That Vehicle activated sign be installed reducing traffic speeds to the lowest possible even if it is 30mph which does make people slow down.
- That signs are painted on entrance roads to The Groves saying 30mph or better still 20mph
- That signs be erected on all Grove roads adjoining Edgware Road repeating the lorry restriction you say exists. These roads are entry points into Barnet.
- That an experimental large vehicle ban be imposed on The Groves"

- 9.2 Traffic management measures have been implemented over the years in the 'Groves' area to reduce the impact of traffic within this predominately residential area.
- 9.3 A site meeting was held in Elm Grove on 28 July to discuss issues relating to the use made by traffic. A speed survey had been carried out on 23 July and a subsequent survey was conducted on 30 July along Elm Grove. The results from both surveys indicated that vehicles were not exceeding the recommended speed limit. This exercise will be repeated once the schools have returned although it is not envisaged that there will be any significant change.
- 9.4 There have been two road traffic incidents recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service in Elm Grove in the last three years that resulted in personal injuries. Excessive speed was not a contributory factor in either of them.
- 9.5 Although there may be a local perception regarding traffic speeds and safety, the lack of any evidence of excessive speeding and recorded accidents where speeding was a factor does not justify any expenditure of additional traffic management measures.
- 9.6 The option of closing Elm Grove to through traffic will not be supported by the police due to the inability of providing a suitable turning area and safety concerns regarding the need to therefore reverse service vehicles.
- 9.7 The Borough-wide 7.5T lorry ban, except for access, includes the roads within the 'Groves' area. The ban is signed at the entry points on the

borough boundary and there are no signs erected within individual streets. A review of the effectiveness / visibility of these boundary signs is to be carried out.

- 9.8 It is suggested that the Director of Environment & Transport writes to the Member with the result of the further speed survey and the outcome of the lorry ban signage review as it may affect this location.
- 9.9 In the longer term there are proposals to substantially alter the junction of Cricklewood Lane with Cricklewood Broadway (A5) as part of the overall transport investment programme that will be delivered in the area as part of the Brent Cross / Cricklewood regeneration. The effect of increasing movement capacity at this junction will reduce delay and thus the attractiveness of the 'Groves' area by through vehicles. The current intrusion of passing traffic experienced by residents will be reduced.

## **10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 - E-mail from Councillor Monroe Palmer dated 8 August 2008.  
- Results of speed survey  
- Sign survey notes
- 10.2 Any person wishing to inspect the background papers above should telephone Claire Mehegan on 020 8359 2205.

Legal: JM  
CFO: MG