

Subject: Traffic light controlled crossings
From: [REDACTED]
To: cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk; cllr.r.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk; mayor@london.gov.uk;
Cc: letters@hamhigh.co.uk; letters.barnet@nlhnews.co.uk; times.letters@london.newsquest.co.uk;
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:17 PM

Dear Councillor Coleman

I was very concerned to hear your policy of reviewing, with the intention of removing, all pelican crossings (traffic-light controlled crossings) in Barnet. I appreciate that not all crossings would be removed or replaced. However, I feel this would be extremely detrimental to older people in Barnet, particularly those with disabilities. As a local resident I am also concerned about the impact on children.

I do not believe it is in line with the Council's policy of "sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities".

I attach a letter outlining my concerns, and the concerns of the other signatories. I would be happy to discuss this with you, if you would like to speak to me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Julia Hines
Age UK Barnet

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir

On 20 Feb Councillor Brian Coleman brought a paper to the Cabinet of Barnet Council¹ with the proposal

That a systematic review of traffic signal controlled junctions and pedestrian crossings be undertaken with a view to removal or replacement with an alternative method of control where these are no longer needed

In other words, he intends to review every single pelican crossing and traffic light in the borough, with a view to removing it.

At the meeting he stated that "road traffic accidents in Barnet have dropped like a stone" since he was put in charge of road policy in 2002. This statement is not borne out by the facts². Between 2002 and 2010 road traffic accidents in Barnet fell by 18%, whereas in London as a whole they have fallen by 40% between 2000 and 2010, with most of the gains being made in later years.

In 2010 Barnet roads saw 9 deaths, the highest number of any London borough, and 1520 accidents resulting in a personal injury, the second highest of any London borough. The vast majority of accidents occurred on Barnet maintained roads. Given that road traffic accidents are statistically more likely in deprived and densely populated areas (broadly not a description of Barnet) these figures are shocking.

Councillor Coleman also stated that "zebra crossings are often safer than pelican crossings". We would dispute this. Pelican crossings are easier for children to use, as it is recognised that children have difficulty in judging speed and distance³. Pelican crossings are also easier and safer for older people and those with disabilities to use, in particular those with sensory impairment. Pelican crossings have visual cues (green man), auditory cues (beeping tone) and tactile cues (cones which turn under the control box) which help those with sight and /or hearing problems to cross safely.

We, the undersigned, call on Barnet Council to abandon this planned expenditure and, instead, invest the allocated funds to improve road safety.

Yours sincerely

Julia Hines, Chair, Age UK Barnet, Meritage Centre, Church End, NW4 4JT

Dee Oelman, Headteacher, St Mary's and St John's Primary School, NW4 3SL

Rebecca Mottershead, Headteacher, Church Hill School, Burlington Rise EN4 8NN

Philip Taylor, Headteacher, All Saints Church of England Primary School, Cricklewood Lane NW2 2TH

Stanley Davison, Chair, Barnet 55+ Forum

¹ <http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/reports/reportdetail.asp?ReportID=11017>

² <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/projectsandschemes/roadsandpublicspaces/2840.aspx>

³ <http://www.childsafetyweek.org.uk/child-safety-week/parents-section/safety-advice-by-age/>

Manjit Dulay, Headteacher, Summerside Primary School, Crossway, N12 0QU

Lisa Meyer, Acting Headteacher, Sunnyfields Primary School, Hatchcroft, NW4 4JH

David Howard, Chair, Federation of Residents' Associations in Barnet

Nilottama Patel, Chair, Barnet Asian Women's Association

Suzu Stone, Headteacher, Akiva School, East End Rd, N3 2SY

Barbara Hogg, Vice Chair, Barnet Borough Sight Impaired

Jeffrey Raphael, Chair, Disability Action in the borough of Barnet

Sally Lajalati, Headteacher, Colindale Primary School, Clovelly Avenue, NW9 6DT

Chris Read, Chief Officer, A Smile for a Child

Zaheer Ali, Chair, Salaam

Dulcie Burnett, Chair, Burnt Oak District Pensioners' Association

Lynn Maggs-Wellings, Headteacher, Lyonsdown School, Richmond Rd, EN5 1SA

Laura Cohen, President, WI Finchley

Susan Swinburne, School Travel Plan Champion, Courtland Primary School, Courtland Ave NW7 3BG

Sogand Shaker, Barnet Member of Youth Parliament

Dr Dominic Lockett, Headmaster, Mill Hill School and Chief Executive of Mill Hill School Foundation.

Subject: Re: Traffic light controlled crossings
From: Julia Hines [REDACTED]
To: Cllr.B.Coleman@barnet.gov.uk;
Cc: Cllr.R.Cornelius@barnet.gov.uk;
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 4:16 PM

Dear Councillor Coleman

I am disappointed that you are not attending the hustings, but that is up to you. Most candidates welcome the chance to speak about their policies. I have not commented on this publicly other than to say that you declined the invitation. It has nothing to do with this issue.

Your Standards Committee hearing was a public meeting and as a resident of Barnet I was perfectly entitled to go. I did not attend in my capacity as chair of Age UK Barnet.

I would again ask you to explain the very serious allegation that you have made that I have misrepresented the pelican crossings policy in any way shape or form.

For the record, I do believe that you can copy defamatory slurs like this to Councillor Cornelius and still consider that this is a private correspondence.

I would like an immediate retraction and apology.

Yours sincerely

Julia Hines

From: "Coleman, Cllr Brian Conservative" <Cllr.B.Coleman@barnet.gov.uk>
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: "Cornelius, Cllr Richard Conservative" <Cllr.R.Cornelius@barnet.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 4:07 PM
Subject: Re: Traffic light controlled crossings

Private and Political

Oh really ??????

I understand you are annoyed that neither I nor the Conservative Party will attend your hustings meeting however I do not intend to give you the Political ammunition
You are clearly conducting a Political campaign during an election and misrepresenting the Council's policy

And exactly why were you at my Standards Committee hearing not to mention your rudeness to my friends
??????

This correspondence is closed until after the election

From: Julia Hines
To: Coleman, Cllr Brian Conservative
Cc: Cornelius, Cllr Richard Conservative
Sent: Tue Apr 10 16:01:21 2012

Subject: Re: Traffic light controlled crossings
Dear Councillor Coleman

I resent the implication that I, or any of the other signatories to the letter to you, are engaged in a political campaign with any motive other than to have the policy reviewed and repealed. I consider that a slur and I would ask you to retract it.

I wrote to you as soon as practicable after the policy was announced, which was well before the election period for the GLA elections.

I am not clear in what way I have misrepresented the policy. The policy is straightforward, and I have represented it in a straightforward way. However I am concerned that it will be detrimental to older people in Barnet, which is why I wrote to you. My understanding is that the policy is to review all the traffic light controlled crossings in Barnet, with the intention of seeing if they can be removed, possibly by being replaced with a zebra crossing or mini-roundabout. If you do not intend to remove pelican crossings then it seems to me to be a waste of time and money to review them all. If you are intending to remove some of them, which would then, as I understand it, be done under delegated powers, I am concerned that this will impact on the independence and mobility of many older people, people with disabilities and children.

I am not concerned with the actions of any of opposition parties in the Council. I am not a member of any political party, nor have I ever been one. I am concerned with the lives of older people in the borough

I would be grateful for a response to my original letter and an explanation of your email to Mr Michael Nolan dated 2 April, together with clarification of how you say I have misrepresented the policy.

Yours sincerely

Julia Hines

From: "Coleman, Cllr Brian Conservative" <Cllr.B.Coleman@barnet.gov.uk>
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: "Cornelius, Cllr Richard Conservative" <Cllr.R.Cornelius@barnet.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 3:46 PM
Subject: Re: Traffic light controlled crossings

Private and not for publication

I see no reason to engage in your politically motivated campaign (especially during an election campaign) Your constant misrepresentation of this policy to the voluntary sector and schools has caused much unnecessary distress ,(and an apology from Community Barnet) I cannot imagine what your motives are ?

This policy agreed by the Cabinet (and NOT called in by the Opposition) is straight forward and clear and in line with TfL and the Mayor of London's policy

From: Julia Hines
To: Coleman, Cllr Brian Conservative
Cc: Cornelius, Cllr Richard Conservative; mayor@london.gov.uk
Sent: Tue Apr 10 15:16:12 2012
Subject: Traffic light controlled crossings

Dear Councillor Coleman

I write further to my letter of 28 February, a copy of which is attached. As you will recall the letter was signed by 25 headteachers and community leaders.

I am disappointed that, six weeks later, I have still not had a reply to the letter, or even an acknowledgement.

However, I understand that you have responded to Mr Michael Nolan's letter to you on this subject to the effect that "There are no such proposals". I would be grateful if you could clarify this statement.

I look forward to hearing from you. As before, I will be happy to circulate any response to the signatories of the letter.

Yours sincerely

Julia Hines
Chair of Age UK Barnet

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