

Improve road safety on Squires Lane, N3



Walk Safe Squires Lane

We call on Barnet Council to review and improve the road safety of Squires Lane, N3 as a matter of urgency.

From one end where it joins East End Road, to the other end at the A1000/A406 junction, Squires Lane is a blackspot for speeding, dangerous driving, accidents, and near misses.

We have formed a working group of parents from local schools and residents, supported by local councillors. We are requesting that the following actions are taken in order to make Squires Lane safe for all of its users:

- 1. Traffic calming measures along Squires Lane, including a 20mph speed limit, speed bumps, speed cameras, and road safety signs and markings.**
- 2. Improvements to the crossing at the Squires Lane/Long Lane junction, including filter lights for drivers turning right and a longer crossing time for pedestrians.**
- 3. A zebra crossing between Manorside and Tudor Schools.**

This is a residential road with hundreds of pedestrians who use it daily. Many of them are young children; there are five primary schools on or near the road, plus nurseries, & many secondary school children walking home.

Manorside and Tudor schools have recently formed a Federation, significantly increasing pedestrian traffic between the two schools during the day. The children who need to cross Squires Lane have no safe place to do so.

The junction of Squires Lane with Long Lane is a particularly dangerous spot, with children from Manorside and Tudor schools crossing en masse, buses turning, and commercial traffic. Drivers routinely run the red lights here.

Some recent examples of collisions at this junction include:

- January 2016: a head-on crash at school pick-up time between a 143 bus and a van.
- Late 2015: a Manorside pupil was struck by a van driving across the pedestrian crossing while the 'green man' was lit.

The stretch of Squires Lane between the railway bridge and Vineyard Grove is also notorious for speeding. Vehicles have smashed into the traffic island near the Pentland entrance, leaving live electrical cables exposed, at least five times in the first month of 2016, and 16 times in the past three years.

In 2013, following previous serious accidents (including one involving an 11-year-old pupil who required an air ambulance, and a fatal collision), a review of traffic was undertaken ('Squires Lane and Manor View N3 – Review of Traffic and Safety Improvements' 25 June 2013, Barnet Council report by Themba Nleya).

This report found that 'Notably and despite the irregular layout, the junction lacks markings for right-turning movements that would normally be recommended for cross-road junctions.' This has not been improved.

The traffic management measures that were introduced in 2014 (Vehicle Activated Signs on the railway bridge and a mini roundabout at the Squires Lane/Station Road/Manor View junction) are demonstrably inadequate, as drivers continue to speed over the railway bridge and to run the red lights at the junction.

A serious or fatal accident is only a matter of time, unless we take action now.