

BRIARWOOD DRIVE, NORTHWOOD HILLS - PETITION REQUESTING MEASURES TO RESTRICT NON-RESIDENT PARKING

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling
Officer Contact(s)	Steven Austin, Residents Services Directorate
Papers with report	Appendix A

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received a petition asking for measures to address all day non-residential parking in Briarwood Drive, Northwood Hills.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered as part of the Council's Road Safety Programme.
Financial Cost	There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services.
Ward(s) affected	Northwood Hills

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Meets and discusses with petitioners, their concerns with parking in Briarwood Drive, Northwood Hills.**
- 2. Subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers to add the request to the Council's extensive parking programme for further investigation in an area agreed with local Ward Councillors.**

Reasons for recommendation

The petition hearing will provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the petitioners of their concerns and suggestions.

Alternative options considered / risk management

None at this stage.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1. A petition in two parts with a total of 51 signatures has been submitted to the Council from residents who live in Briarwood Drive asking for measures to address problems caused by all day parking. In an accompanying statement the lead petitioner eloquently summarises the problem as:

"The overriding problem is that Briarwood Drive is effectively a car park for commuters who work in Central London and for tourists/public who sometimes park their cars in the street for two weeks at a time. Residents' driveways are often blocked and it is often difficult for residents' visitors to find parking. There is an additional problem in that motorists use the road as a cut through (rat run), often travelling down the road at high speed. This is dangerous and adds wear and tear to a road that is in a decayed state".

2. Briarwood Drive is predominantly a residential road that is close to Northwood Hills town centre. Due to the close proximity to Northwood Hills Underground Station and the local amenities, Briarwood Drive and the surrounding roads form an attractive option for non-residents to park. Briarwood Drive also links Pinner Road (A404) to Joel Street avoiding the sometimes congested Northwood Hills Circus roundabout. The location of Briarwood Drive is indicated on the plan attached as Appendix A.
3. The petition has been signed by at least 30 households out of 62 properties in Briarwood Drive which represents 48% of the total households in this road. However, the figure is likely to be higher but some residents who signed the petition neglected to indicate their house number on the petition.
4. The Cabinet Member will recall hearing a similar petition earlier this year submitted by 74% of residents who live in Oakdale Avenue, which is directly off Briarwood Drive also asking for measures to address commuter parking. From the two petitions, it appears that there is significant local support for measures to address commuter parking and it has been helpfully suggested by the lead petitioner that *"as a minimum the residents who have signed this petition wish to see parking restrictions imposed for one or two hours a day (e.g. 11am to 12 noon). This would have an immediate impact of curbing all day commuter parking while still allowing people to park for occasional shopping or to visit residents. This would be positive for both residents and local shopkeepers."*
5. As the Cabinet Member will be aware, there have been previous consultations on options to manage parking in the Northwood Hills area. Responses received to this consultation in 2009 from residents of Briarwood Drive indicated they were happy with the existing parking

arrangements and in accordance with Council practice, no further action was taken to introduce parking controls at the time.

6. However, in light of the recent petitions submitted it is recommended that the Cabinet Member discusses with petitioners their concerns and if considered appropriate, asks officers to add this request to the future parking scheme programme and carry out an informal consultation with residents in an area agreed in liaison with local Ward Councillors.
7. The petition also goes on to request:
 - *Re-surfacing of the road in Briarwood Drive*
 - *Traffic calming along Briarwood Drive.*

It is suggested to the Cabinet Member that these requests are investigated separately to the possible consultation on options to manage the parking in the area. Subject to discussions with the petitioners, the Cabinet Member may ask officers to undertake 24/7 traffic surveys to establish the volumes and speed of traffic. Petitioners will be pleased to know that Briarwood Drive is already included in the list of roads which will be considered for inclusion in a future resurfacing programme, the decision for which rests with Members.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report. If works are subsequently required, suitable funding will need to be identified within the parking programme.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

To allow the Cabinet Member an opportunity to discuss in detail with petitioners their concerns.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

None at this stage.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations set out above.

Legal

There are no special legal implications for the proposal to discuss with petitioners their concerns relating to parking on Briarwood Drive, which amounts to an informal consultation. A meeting with the petitioners is perfectly legitimate as part of a listening exercise, especially where consideration of the policy, factual and engineering issues are still at a formative stage. Fairness and natural justice requires that there must be no predetermination of a decision in advance of any wider non-statutory consultation.

In considering any informal consultation responses, decision makers must ensure there is a full consideration of all representations arising, including those which do not accord with the officer recommendation. The decision maker must be satisfied that responses from the public are conscientiously taken into account.

Should there be a decision that further measures are to be considered, then the relevant statutory provisions will have to be identified and considered.

Corporate Property and Construction

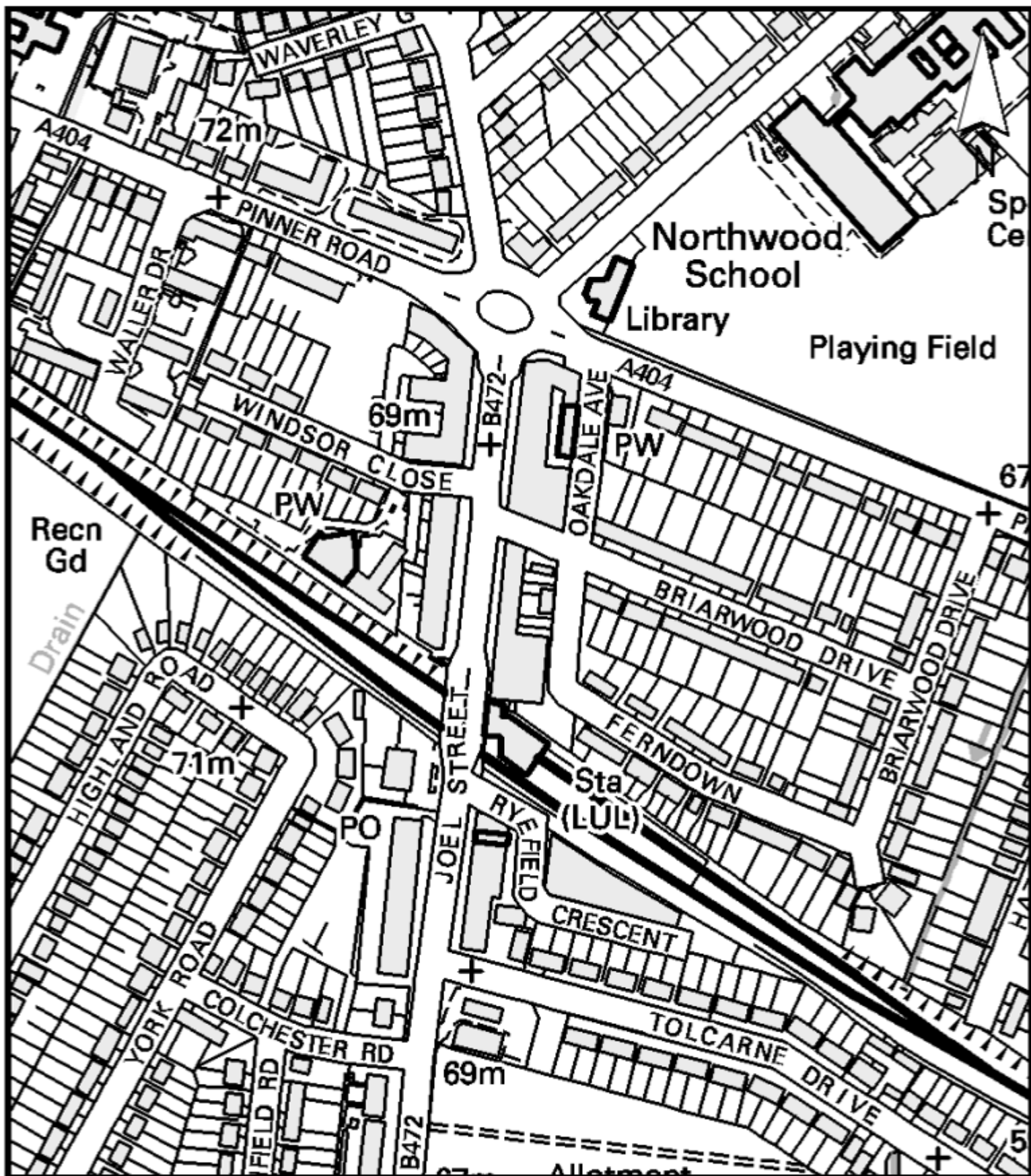
There are no property implications resulting from the recommendations set out in this report.

Relevant Service Groups

None at this stage.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.



Location Plan
Briarwood Drive, Northwood Hills

Appendix A

Date July 2014
Scale 1:3,000