

TITLE: CLIFTON GARDENS, HILLINGDON – PETITION REQUESTING MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

Cabinet Portfolio	Planning and Transportation
Report Author	Steve Austin
Papers with report	Appendix A

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received from residents of Clifton Gardens concerning problems with traffic in their road and asking the Council to introduce measures that will alleviate the situation.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The petition request can be considered as part of the Council's strategy for road safety.
Financial Cost	There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents and Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Hillingdon East

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member

1. Discusses with petitioners their concerns with traffic in Clifton Gardens and the possible measures that could be considered to address the issues raised.
2. Subject to the outcome of 1 above asks Officers to investigate the feasible measures identified as part of the Council's Road Safety programme.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

The residents of Clifton Gardens have raised traffic issues as a concern but ameliorative measures need to be acceptable to them to be successful. If measures are identified they can be considered as part of the Council's Road Safety programme.

Alternative options considered

These will be discussed with the petitioners.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 283 signatures has been received from residents of Clifton Gardens under the following heading:

“ The traffic congestion and parking situation approaching the Abbotsfield and Swakeleys School complex from the junction of Long Lane and Clifton Gardens has been a severe problem for a number of years and is one that should be addressed as soon as possible, especially in light of the proposed expansion of the School site through the Building Schools for the future project. We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to introduce a scheme (or schemes) to alleviate the growing problems caused by the above”.

2. In a covering letter to the petition, the organiser emphasises that Clifton Gardens is the main access to two schools which attracts problems with parents/guardians dropping and collecting pupils at school starting and finishing times. There is also concern that currently two applications are under consideration, one for a block 6 flats and another for extensive re-development of one of the school sites. This is considered will exacerbate the current problems experienced by residents.
3. Clifton Gardens is indicated on the map attached as Appendix A. It is on the east side of Long Lane and at its far eastern end is the vehicular and pedestrian access to Abbotsfield and Swakeleys Schools. Approximately, midway along the road there is a crossroad junction with Snowden Avenue/Brampton Road. The petition organiser also points out that Clifton Gardens, presumably the western end carries “Rat-running” traffic attempting to avoid congestion on Long Lane. It is likely the eastern section carries the brunt of any problems with school traffic. Clearly, Clifton Gardens would also be the main route used by emergency services should an incident occur on one of the school sites.
4. The Cabinet Member will be familiar with issues raised by residents living in the close vicinity to schools and it is not an easy matter to solve without unduly impacting on these residents. Clearly any measures introduced will only be successful if they are acceptable to local residents.
5. Within the covering letter, the petition organiser indicates a meeting has been held with residents of Clifton Gardens and that several options have been put forward that they would like the Council to consider. These have not been incorporated into the petition and it is suggested the Cabinet Member discusses with petitioners their suggestions and identify any feasible measures that could be included in the Council’s Road Safety programme.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with the recommendations to this report. The investigation of feasible measures can be carried out with in-house resources. However, if measures are introduced in Clifton Gardens, a budget will need to be identified and due to the road safety implications, it may be possible for the Cabinet Member to consider an allocation from the Council's Road Safety programme.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss in detail, residents concerns and the potential solutions that could be considered.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

If the Council subsequently approves the introduction of traffic measures in Clifton Gardens, all residents will be consulted prior to the Cabinet Member arriving at a final decision on a proposed scheme.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Legal

The proposals for the introduction of road safety measures to alleviate problems in Clifton Gardens can be achieved by exercising powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Highways Act 1980. On the basis of the information contained in this report, it does not appear that there are special legal implications for this particular matter. The client will be required to be mindful of the statutory procedures imposed upon the traffic authority for the making of Traffic Management Orders which spring from the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Officers are familiar with these procedures. In cases of doubt, Legal Services will be instructed. The decision maker must balance the relevant considerations to best give effect to the discharge of the statutory duty to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular traffic and other traffic.

In considering any 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 were conscientiously taken into account in finalising the officer's recommendation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received 21st October 2009