

TAVISTOCK ROAD, YIEWSLEY - REQUEST FOR 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

Cabinet Member	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport
Officer Contact	Sophie Wilmot, Place Directorate
Papers with report	Appendix A - Location Plan

HEADLINES

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received from residents of Tavistock Road, Yiewsley requesting a 20mp speed limit.
Putting our Residents First Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	This report supports our ambition for residents/ the Council of: Live active and healthy lives. This report supports our commitments to residents of: A Green and Sustainable Borough.
Financial Cost	The estimated cost associated with the recommendations to this report is £360 and will be managed within existing revenue budgets for the Transportation service.
Relevant Select Committee	Property, Highways and Transport Select Committee.
Relevant Ward	Yiewsley

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport:

- 1. meets with petitioners and listens to their request for a 20mph speed limit on Tavistock Road, Yiewsley;**
- 2. notes the history of issues and petitions on Tavistock Road, Yiewsley as detailed within this report;**
- 3. Explains the context of what is covered by his portfolio with regard to this petition, but asks officers to relay concerns where appropriate to other departments and/or his relevant Cabinet colleagues;**
- 4. notes petitioners' concerns over vehicle speeds on Tavistock Road and instructs officers to consider the undertaking of 24/7 speed and vehicle classification**

surveys (the Cabinet Member may be minded to ask petitioners their views on locations for these);

5. based on the results of the traffic surveys instructs officers to explore further investigations for improving road safety on Tavistock Road, within the scope of petitioners' testimony and report back.

Reasons for recommendations

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.

Select Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Introduction

- 1) The Council has received a petition, with 26 signatures, from residents of Tavistock Road, under the following heading:

The petition is residents' request for a 20 Mph speed limit on Tavistock Road, Yiewsley.

'We request a 20mph speed limit and CCTV monitoring. The speeding Skip, Container and HGV lorries are causing damage to our residential side street. The road infrastructure has deteriorated such that sewage pipes are being replaced. We have water and gas pipes, and any future fractures could create a dangerous situation. Lower speeds would reduce noise, fumes and dust, improve safety, ease health and mental issues which this situation causes to residents and stabilise further damage to the road surface, and actually put residents first. Desired Outcome: Lower speeds would reduce noise, fumes and dust; improve safety, ease health and mental issues which this situation causes to residents and stabilise further damage to the road surface, give us an improved environment and put residents first, which the Council has vowed to do.'

- 2) Officer comments in response to the specific requests above are covered further later in this report, in the section headed 'Recommendations'.
- 3) Tavistock Road runs between Trout Road and Station Road, West Drayton. The area has a number of residential properties with a mix of houses and flatted developments. Tavistock Road also provides crucial access for a number of industrial units. The mix of residential and industrial units along Tavistock Road has been a factor for a considerable number of years. A plan of the area is attached as Appendix A.

- 4) Fortunately, Tavistock Road does not have evidence of a significantly poor road traffic collision record. Officers have interrogated the Police Road Traffic Collision data for the location and have established that there has only been one 'personal injury accident' as recorded by the Police, within the most recent five years for which data is available. It is appreciated that incidents involving the Police may not tell the whole story, but at the same time this road traffic collision data collated and recorded by the Police is a very important tool to help the Council prioritise interventions across the Borough.

Previous Petitions

- 5) At least two petitions have previously been heard in regard to issues and requests from residents along Tavistock Road. These are summarised below:

September 2018 Petition

The petition is residents' request for traffic calming in Tavistock Road, Yiewsley.

'Petition Topic and Desired Outcome: Petition Topic: To prevent dangerously speeding traffic in Tavistock Road in order to protect the young families and elderly residents. Desired Outcome: To have a 20mph speed limit for the whole length of Tavistock Road, and possibly split speed humps in the areas away from the residential properties so that speed reduction can be implemented without the noise of vehicles bumping over them and preventing the residents enjoyment of their properties.'

- 6) The above petition was as noted heard by the then Cabinet Member and the outcome was a traffic survey which was, as is usual practice by the Council, contracted to an independent external traffic survey company. The survey method used transversely laid pneumatic strips which detect vehicle movements including the time, speed, direction of travel and the type and size of vehicles in each case. The outcome of the survey, undertaken in November 2018 was that the average 85th %tile speeds were recorded between 26mph and 29mph.
- 7) The outcome of the traffic survey was reported to the Cabinet Member, ward councillors of the time and the lead petitioner, and it was decided to take no further action at that stage but to keep the matter under review.

July 2022 Petition

Petition Against Noise Nuisance In Tavistock Road, Yiewsley

'This is concerning Noise Nuisance coming from a road leading to Old Coal Yard Tavistock Road, West Drayton, UB7 7QT. The road and the site are owned by Network Rail and let to Eurostorage and Powerday. The site is located in very close proximity to residents living in Padcroft Development (with 308 residential units and additional 104 in the planning process). As residents of Padcroft Development, we have been hugely impacted by the constant, rattling noise of trucks coming in and out of the OLD Coal Yard site 24 hours 7 days a week. The noise has a very bad impact on our sleep and mental health. Because of the unbearable noise, we can't use our private amenity space without experiencing very high dose of decibels. Residents are unable to sleep after 6 am in bedrooms located just opposite the Tavistock Road. In summary, we would like to ask the Council to prevent trucks from coming in and out before and after the licensed operating hours (7 am -11 pm),

limit the site operation hours, prevent trucks from coming on weekends and bank holidays when residents would like to enjoy their amenity space, request that the road be repaired, and request that all skip lorries coming into the site have muffled chains.

Therefore, we would like to ask the Council the following actions needed: 1. Road resurfacing. The state of the road is in extremely bad condition. It is littered with very deep potholes and this causes more noise as heavy vehicles trundle over the deep holes in the road. The Council is using the site for one of its services namely the Civic Amenity site at the weekends, therefore it does have a role to play in making sure the road is of a good enough quality that it does not jeopardize the health and safety of residents, not to mention their vehicles and residents living close to the site. The new road surface will help to reduce noise. Moreover, the Council's Vehicles has been seen by local residents coming in and out the site during weekdays, therefore, the Council is using the site not only during weekends. 2. We urge the Council to take immediate action on the companies using the site before 7am. There was an Examination in Public on the issue of night-time working on the site by Powerday and there is now a legal agreement that there should be no working on the site between the hours of 7 am to 11 pm. The site at the moment operates as 24/7 skip site and there are vehicles coming in and out during the night hours. Desmond Phillips from the Council attended the site on the 19/06/2020 from 06.40hours to 08.11 hours and noticed a total of 43 lorries/vehicles driving pass with and without padding on their metal chains. 3. We petition for the site to operate only during the normal working hours 9 am-6 pm due to very close proximity to big residential development to ensure our mental wellbeing is protected and residents will not be limited only to sleep between 11 pm and 7 am. 4. We request that all skip lorries coming into the site to have muffled chains. Again, this was agreed before by the Government Inspector at the Examination in Public. 5. Moreover, we are also very concerned about the pollution that these trucks are making with their frequency (every couple of minutes) in addition to the other traffic that comes through Tavistock Road including Sunrise skip trucks & the vehicles and trucks connected to the Redrow construction site. 6. We request that the site won't operate for a commercial purpose during weekends and bank holidays. We request that no trucks will be allowed on site on those days. It is operating as Civic Amenity site at the weekends with a lot of cars coming in and out. We are really disturbed during weekends by having all those cars and trucks coming in and out all the time. This is a time for us to enjoy our private and public amenity space but at the moment it is impossible as the noise is unbearable. Specific This is concerning Noise Nuisance coming from a road leading to Old Coal Yard Tavistock Road, West Drayton, UB7 7QT. The road and the site are owned by Network Rail and let to Eurostorage and Powerday. The site is located in very close proximity to residents living in Padcroft Development (with 308 residential units and additional 104 the planning process'

- 8) The above petition covered a number of issues outside the remit of the Cabinet Member hearing the present petition, although it made reference to some that are within scope, such as the condition of the roads.
- 9) The Head of Highways comments that '*Trout Road Bridge over the Canal - This bridge is owned by the Canal and River Trust and has a weight restriction of 7.5T. The sign at the junction of Tavistock Road and Station Road will be checked and changed to 7.5T. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Trout Road Bridge over the River Frays - This bridge is owned by the Council and has no weight restriction. Please be advised that General Inspections are undertaken on our highway structures every two years, and more comprehensive Principal Inspections every six-years. A Principal Inspection is scheduled*

to be undertaken this financial year. Enforcement of bridge weight restrictions is primarily a Police matter. Accordingly, if you have witnessed a suspected breach of a highway weight restriction you should report this to the Police for further investigation in the first instance.'

- 10) In addition to the above petitions, more recently records show a complaint about the alleged behaviour of private contractors operating in the vicinity:

March 2023 Resident complaint

I would like to make a complaint about antisocial behaviour by two local contractors in our area, I have complained via 'report it' in the past but the behaviour of these contractors is getting worse by the day in my opinion.

The building contractor using the old Rainbow Industrial Estate and Quick Skip Hire Ltd both in Trout Road, West Drayton.

Just this morning there were Quick Skip lorries parked up outside residential houses with engines running while the driver was sorting something out in the cab, then I drove up Trout Road to the newly installed width restriction and a buildings supply lorry is easing through the restriction knocking the posts either side because the vehicle is too wide for the 7' restriction. I then get to the other side of the bridge outside the Building Contractor using the the old Rainbow Industrial Estate and two extremely large lorries turn out (nothing unusual for 7am); one lorry I'm behind is dropping sand and aggregates out the back all over the road in front of me, both lorries were struggling due to size to get up Trout Road which is a tiny road and certainly not built for these size vehicles and then they are met by an oncoming articulated buildings truck coming the other way; after a bit of shuffling the articulated lorry mounted the pavement and drove half on the road but across the pavement from Emo Motors to Caxton House.

This is a regular occurrence, not unusual but it's getting beyond a joke now and totally unacceptable. Both these companies have total disregard for the locals, Quick Skips has lorries up and down Tavistock Road making noise with revving engines, chains clattering, items and dirt coming off the trucks and driving inconsiderable, parking outside residential houses early morning with the engines on. The Rainbow Estate contractor is another level, the crap that comes off their truck is terrible, the whole area now looks like a building site that road and surrounding buildings are filthy, dust and aggregates all over the road, lorries mounting and driving along the pavements, drivers on mobile phones whilst driving, very early noise coming from the site trucks and shouting, banging and bleeping. They burn rubbish now and again on site and the lorries are destroying the roads and pavements with the sheer weight of the trucks.

It used to be a nice quiet area, but it's turned into a bit of a nightmare.

Sorry for the rattling on but these contractors are slowly destroying the area due to their disregard and personally the area and surrounding road are not built for these kinds of the heavy contractors".

- 11) The above details are included here for completeness, in order to provide the Cabinet Member with some salient background to wider concerns from residents, although he will

no doubt wish to remind petitioners of the scope of what he is empowered to consider, in the context of their present petition.

Previous work – Anti Social Behaviour Team

- 12) Based on issues raised by residents previously, the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team have undertaken a number of investigations, for information and context in consideration of the petition, the team have provided an update below:

Old Coal Yard Site

"Network Rail have confirmed they have not yet received an interpretation of the dust monitoring from Hansons Aggregates; however, I have requested a report as soon as possible. They have commissioned another set of noise monitoring and modelling, as a previously installed temporary acoustic fence made the situation worse according to residents. As NR are proposing to spend several million installing an acoustic barrier, they need to ensure it will be effective and certainly not make the situation worse".

Euro Storage

"The lease expired on 31st March 2023 and Network Rail's (NRs) intention was to obtain vacant possession of the whole area prior to re-letting. However, many of the sub-tenants submitted requests to remain on the site and NR received press interest as to why they were putting a lot of small companies out of business. NR have constantly monitored the site and observed business operations. There were 2 large skip operators who were in contravention of planning control and EA permits. These have now vacated the site but unfortunately have left a quantity of inert waste which NR will remove".

Rainbow Industrial Estate

"It appears that three cement businesses displaced from the Network Rail site have set up on the Rainbow Industrial Estate and are operating without the required permits. Council contractor visited and advised them of permit requirements. We will need to liaise with Planning enforcement on the use of the site and consider possible stat nuisance re dust etc. It is unlikely they have any measures in place to mitigate the dust nuisance. A formal advisory letter was served on one business operating on this site as reports received of noise nuisance outside permitted hours and not using wheel wash. Enquiries are ongoing".

General

"There are approximately 15 smaller businesses who will continue to operate on the site. Three of which are small family operated skip companies, which have been monitored and involved in discussions with NR. They are operating within their EA permits and are complying with NR's requests to muffle their chains to reduce noise. The intention is to move them onto the area with waste consent, vacated by Powerday, which will render them compliant with planning and allow them to continue to operate".

- 13) As noted above, the foregoing paragraphs in italics are provided for context to illustrate the background work on which the Council has been engaged, and to correct any allusions of inaction on the Council's part; clearly any actions upon which the Council may embark has

always to be legal and proportionate, and petitioners must recognise and appreciate that there are a number of agencies involved in some aspects of this wider work.

Traffic survey data

14) In response to specific requests via Members, including the ward councillors of the time, further vehicle speed and classification surveys were undertaken in November 2018, October 2020 and August 2021. This data is captured on a 24/7 basis over – usually – a week to ten-day basis. Automated Traffic Count data of this kind, gathered independently by specialist companies (so there can be no allegation of data manipulation) is regarded in the industry (and the Police) as the most reliable survey method possible, and has the added bonus of being relatively low cost.

The November 2018 survey analysis concluded:

- *The percentage of large vehicles using the road is low, being between 1% and 6% of the total vehicles each day.*
- *The average 85th %tile speed was recorded between 26mph and 29mph.*

The October 2020 survey analysis concluded:

- *The percentage of large vehicles using the road is low, less the 5% of the total vehicles each day.*
- *The number of large vehicles is not excessive considering this is their only way out of the road.*

The August 2021 survey analysis concludes:

- *The speed data obtained shows that the majority of vehicles are travelling at or just below the speed limit.*
- *The majority of vehicles were travelling between 20 and 30 mph.*
- *The chart shows that the 85% speeds are between 27 and 30 mph.*
- *The percentage of large vehicles using the road is **low, less the 5% of the total vehicles each day.***
- *The data for these surveys are shown alongside those of the earlier surveys for comparison*
- *The percentage of large vehicles **is similar to those in 2020.***
- *The number of large vehicles is not excessive considering this is their only way out of the road.*

15) The 2020 and 2021 data is broadly comparable to the earlier data from 2018 and accordingly the fundamental message from this independent survey data is that speed alone does not appear to be an underlying issue of concern.

Recommendations

16) As the petitioners have helpfully summarised their 'key asks' in their petition, officers have taken the opportunity to provide some initial responses to these specific requests in the table below:

Item	Petitioners' Statement of Request set out in their petition as submitted	Officer Comments
a).	<i>"We request a 20mph speed limit and CCTV monitoring".</i>	The Council does not as a rule introduce new 20mph speed limits other than in special cases, such as near schools. Enforcement is entirely a matter for the Metropolitan Police and contrary to popular opinion, the Council has no such powers of enforcement and nor can it use CCTV equipment towards such a purpose.
b).	<i>"The speeding Skip, Container and HGV lorries are causing damage to our residential side street".</i>	Tavistock Road is not solely a residential side street and indeed it has carried a range of traffic, with many vehicle sizes, for many decades. What has undoubtedly changed over time is an increase in residential development. Evidence or otherwise of speeding can only reliably be determined through surveys.
c).	<i>"The road infrastructure has deteriorated such that sewage pipes are being replaced. We have water and gas pipes, and any future fractures could create a dangerous situation".</i>	Contrary to the petitioner's statement, the context of the sewer replacement in Tavistock Road is not deterioration of the road infrastructure but instead a need to upgrade sewers, make them safe and fit for future use, and to ensure they have adequate capacity.
d).	<i>"Lower speeds would reduce noise, fumes and dust, improve safety, ease health and mental issues which this situation causes to residents and stabilise further damage to the road surface, and actually put residents first"</i>	There is little evidence that the speed of traffic has fundamentally contributed to the state of the carriageway in Tavistock Road. Highway Inspections are undertaken regularly. HGVs using Borough roads are obliged to meet the Low Emission Zone ('LEZ') standards for such vehicles; enforcement of this is a matter for Transport for London (TfL).

17)The petition has raised concerns over vehicle speeds along a road which supports residential and industrial uses. The Cabinet Member may wish to remind the petitioners that the first port of call for anyone with concerns about traffic speeds will always be the Metropolitan Police, which is presently the only statutory organisation with the necessary powers of enforcement against speeding drivers; speeding is an enforceable offence, which can result in prosecution and, in many cases, points on the driver's licence.

18)In order to support investigations, to better understand the concerns being raised by the petitioners, and to help with any future design considerations, the Cabinet Member may be minded to instruct officers to undertake further speed and vehicle classification surveys via an independent survey company. The Cabinet Member may however wish to bear in mind the survey outcomes set out earlier in this report which together do not provide a compelling argument that there is an underlying speeding problem in Tavistock Road.

19)If he does wish to proceed with the commissioning of further traffic surveys, the Cabinet Member may be minded in this context to invite petitioners to indicate the locations where they feel such surveys would be most appropriate; survey equipment generally needs to be securely attached to tall street furniture such as lampposts or trees and preferably not where equipment could be parked on.

20)In conclusion, therefore, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member listens to the testimony of the petitioners and their Ward Councillors and considers the possible actions set out for his consideration at the head of this report.

Financial Implications

The estimated cost associated with the recommendations to this report is £360 and will be managed within existing revenue budgets for the Transportation service. Should further investigation support the installation of any measures, an appropriate funding source would need to be identified and released via the Council's Capital Release process.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities

To allow the Cabinet Member to consider the petitioners' request.

Consultation carried out or required

None at this stage.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed the recommendations to this report and concurs with the financial implications as set out above.

Legal

Legal Services confirm that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Infrastructure/ Asset Management

None at this stage.

Comments from other relevant service areas

None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received.

Appendix A - Location Plan

Tavistock Road, West Drayton



Map Notes

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