

MAYOR OF LONDON

Len Duvall AM OBE
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

Our ref: MGLA151113-1918

Date: 17 DEC 2013

Dear Len

Re: Petition received at the London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting on 6 November 2013

Thank you for the petition presented to the London Assembly plenary meeting on 6 November.

As you know, a very high volume of traffic passes through Clifton's Roundabout. This is particularly acute during peak hours. Transport for London (TfL) has recently investigated whether a controlled pedestrian crossing could be installed on Westhorne Avenue, to the east of the roundabout. Pedestrian and traffic surveys were undertaken and TfL reviewed a number of options, both small and large in scale, and assessed the benefits and disbenefits of each of these.

Unfortunately, due to the extremely high traffic flow on Westhorne Avenue and on Sidcup Road, TfL has not been able to identify a suitable option. All of the options considered would result in significantly longer traffic queues on all arms of the roundabout, adding delays and congestion. The queues would also regularly extend back and impact other junctions in the area, creating further safety concerns.

TfL conducted pedestrian counts as part of its assessment and found that the number of pedestrians crossing the carriageway was relatively low. TfL deliberately chose a day when there were events at Goals to carry out the survey, as this was likely to be when demand for a crossing was highest. While there is clearly a demand to cross Westhorne Avenue at this location, and more people may cross if a formal crossing were provided, the number of pedestrians was not high enough to justify the negative impact a crossing would have on the roundabout.

I appreciate this may be disappointing news to your constituents. However, TfL is working on a safety scheme at the junction to improve lane discipline and reduce vehicle speeds. While this is not the solution put forward in the petition, crossing Westhorne Avenue should be slightly easier with slower traffic speeds.

Turning to your point about the vehicles queuing to enter the Tesco/Esso petrol station, I understand that planning permission was granted by the Royal Borough of Greenwich for these premises some time ago.

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Access arrangements would have been agreed as part of this process. While TfL is unable to enforce against vehicles that are queuing to enter the site, TfL is discussing this issue with the Royal Borough of Greenwich and Tesco/Esso and trying to find a way for Tesco/Esso to better manage their forecourt. In addition, TfL recently installed cameras to observe when and how frequently the queuing occurred and driver behaviour. The footage, which was recorded from 7 to 14 November, is currently being analysed and will help identify any specific measures TfL, the borough or Tesco/Esso can implement to reduce the impact and occurrence of these queues. The safety scheme I mentioned will also consider what additional measures can be introduced to address this particular issue.

I can confirm that in early 2014, TfL will be reviewing the speed limits on the A205 between Well Hall roundabout and Burnt Ash Hill, on the A20 between Clifton's roundabout and the Kidbrooke Park Road junction and on the A210 from Kidbrooke Park Road to the Yorkshire Grey roundabout. The aim of this work is to ensure consistency in the area as currently the speed limit is 30mph for some sections and 40mph for others.

I should note that TfL has received requests from the Metropolitan Police Services to increase the speed limit between the Well Hall roundabout and the Yorkshire Grey roundabout from 30mph to 40mph, as the existing road layout lends itself to higher speeds as evidenced by the majority of drivers.

The review will consider the most suitable speed limit for the area. If this is deemed to be 30mph, TfL will then investigate what additional measures can be implemented to ensure vehicles travelling through the area respect the speed limit.

Thank you again for writing to me.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

Cc: Darren Johnson AM, Chair of the London Assembly