

TEDDINGTON SOCIETY ROADS AND TRANSPORT GROUP - REPORT FOR SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 13TH MARCH 2000

1. INTRODUCTION - 1990/1 TEDDINGTON TRAFFIC STUDY

Many of you will remember the Teddington Area Traffic Consultation exercise that took place in 1990/1. All residents were invited to a meeting in Elleray Hall where we were asked about the various traffic problems in Teddington, and how we would like them resolved. Residents produced a list, the Traffic Engineers took this away and produced a costed schedule of over a dozen schemes. After further discussion, these schemes were prioritised, and all have since been put in place.

That was the last time that real consultation with all residents took place. There are two recently introduced improvements that auger well for the future:-

- (i)** The Transport sub-Committee now comes under the Environment Committee instead of the Planning Committee; and
- (ii)** A new Transport Forum representing all the residents and businesses in the Borough has been set up which might well reintroduce consultation with residents. It is still defining its role at present.

2. WHAT IS THE R&T GROUP TRYING TO ACHIEVE NOW?

There have been a number of schemes such as the Queens Road/Broad Street lights, and the Hampton Wick Bus Gate, which were virtually set in concrete before any form of consultation took place. Even then, consultation has been somewhat prejudiced and flawed, and decisions were imposed that took little or no note of the arguments made. We are seeking more open procedures in future.

As a result, we are proposing a number of important changes to the Unitary Development Plan to ensure from the outset of each proposed new scheme there is:-

- full publicity at the initial stages
- full public consultation from day one
- full Environmental Audits to ensure that there will be no subsequent adverse effects on quality of life for local residents (air, noise, vibration, and visual pollution)
- full Safety and Functional Audits
- an independent appeals procedure to prevent abuse of power.

I do not know whether we will be successful, but supporting letters to Mr Broyd, the Inspector, will be very welcome.

3. TRAFFIC DEVELOPMENTS IN TEDDINGTON.

There are a number of traffic issues that are in the pipeline that will affect residents:-

(i) Marks and Spencers - a complete review of parking in the High Street area will be necessary. There is also a serious safety issue if the shop car park is to be accessed from the High Street, a vehicle entrance in Cambridge Road would be safer.

(ii) A consultant is being employed to review the Broad Street/Queens Road traffic lights, parking in the Broad Street area, the High Street/Park Road, High Street/ Waldegrave Road, High Street/ Station Road junctions. The declared intention is to help improve the 281 and 285 bus services. We are to be consulted and will oppose any more traffic lights.

(iii) Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) - a review of the roads around the station is to take place. There are some problems caused by commuters, but even a small CPZ will have a significant adverse knock-on effect in all surrounding roads. CPZs create a number of problems for visitors during the day, and are no guarantee of a parking space for residents

overnight. Councillor Elengorn has said to me on a number of occasions that the whole of central Teddington could eventually have to become a CPZ.

Our view is that CPZs are not desirable, but if particular roads find the position intolerable, and have the full support of residents in surrounding roads, and a CPZ is agreed, that the hours should be limited to 8am to 10am to deter commuter parking, but allow free access for all outside those hours.

4. FINALLY - TRAFFIC CALMING.

Our policy is to seek the removal of road humps as they damage vehicles, are uncomfortable for all, and create extra pollution. The Council is being pressed to look at other options when road calming is under consideration. It is essential, as with CPZs, that residents in all surrounding roads are consulted when road calming is being considered.