

Subject:

FW: Wood Green Area Action Plan - feedback from resident

From: Edel Brosnan

Sent: 28 April 2017 17:52

To: peray.ahmed@haringey.gov.uk; Cllr Mann Stephen; Cllr Strickland Alan

Subject: Wood Green Area Action Plan - feedback from resident

Dear Peray, Stephen and Alan,

I am writing to you as a longtime resident of Noel Park. During my time here, I've been active in the PTA at Noel Park Primary School and I take the health and wellbeing of children at that school extremely seriously. With that in mind, I wish to feed back the following comments on the Wood Green Action Plan.

1. I object to the proposal to turn 2 roads in Noel Park into main roads, namely Lymington Avenue and Moselle Avenue.

Noel Park is a conservation area and a garden suburb, and using it as a rat run for through traffic is a threat to its physical environment, to the integrity of the tree lined roads, and to the health and wellbeing of the population of a densely populated residential area.

Noel Park Primary School on Lymington Avenue has over 500 pupils and an increase in road traffic will increase their risk of respiratory disease, including asthma, and will significantly worsen outcomes for children who already have asthma.

Improved air quality is a cornerstone of the Mayor's Clean Air policy and increasing traffic flow through a residential area with a school, two nurseries, a high population and a high proportion of elderly people, vulnerable people and children directly contravenes the aims and objectives of the Mayor's Clean Air policy. Furthermore, government data published today confirms the health risks of poor air quality in the strongest possible terms.

Existing traffic calming measures will have to be removed to facilitate this change of use.

Wood Green has strong public transport links and transport policy should focus on strengthening these, rather than promoting untrammelled use of cars.

There has been insufficient consultation on this decision.

Alternative solutions for traffic flow, with a stronger emphasis on the health and wellbeing of the residents of Wood Green should be found.

In addition, I would also like to confirm:

2. I object to the decision to demolish private homes on Caxton Road, removing much needed housing stock from Wood Green and undermining the area's heritage, on the spurious grounds that these houses 'spoil the view'. I also object to the plans to use this space to build a car park for the new Aldi supermarket.

3. I object to the demolition of Wood Green Library, which is one of the busiest public libraries in the UK and the flagship for the borough's library service.

4. I object to the demolition of the Civic Centre, which is an integral part of Wood Green's postwar architectural fabric and heritage. I do not believe that demolishing this building, and then building a £33 million replacement on the site of the existing library offers good value for money, and I believe it is detrimental to the architectural heritage of the area.

5. I object to demolition of the Vue Cinema and its replacement with a bus garage, which undermines your plan's own stated aim of improving the nighttime economy and amenities of Wood Green.

6. The action plan acknowledges that traffic problems are a problem for Wood Green, therefore I object to its total failure to tackle this problem in any way, other than driving increasing volumes of traffic through residential streets, to the detriment of the local community.

7. I object to the plan's strong focus on increasing retail space, at a time when retail sales are falling nationwide, due to longterm changes in consumer behaviour and shopping trends. While Wood Green High Road is run down, London and the UK are awash with empty retail space - high-end shopping centres including the Brunswick Centre, 1 New Change and Westfield Stratford, as well as Wigmore Street and Oxford Street in London all have empty shop units. It is not a problem unique to Wood Green. I also dispute the description of the shop buildings on the High Road as 'unremarkable' - there is a wealth of interesting late Victorian features, especially at first floor level. The area needs attention but it does not need to be razed to the ground.

I understand that the plan is still at draft stage, and that the details are still being finessed. I would urge you to rethink the above points. I was surprised and disappointed at the overall direction of the plan. As a longtime resident and voter, I was particularly disappointed that the elected representatives of Noel Park Ward were supporting a plan to 'open up' residential roads in a conservation area to inappropriately high volumes of traffic.

Happy to respond in more detail if required.

Yours sincerely,

Edel Brosnan

Dominic Boylan