

BRIEFING NOTE

FOR THE ATTENTION OF:

Cllr Bond - Cabinet Member for
Environment, Street Scene & Parks

For information / ~~For Comment~~

(delete as appropriate)

Subject / Title:

Eldon Road Area, N9 – Proposed
20mph zone around Eldon Infants &
Junior Schools and double yellow lines
on corners

Date: 4 March 2011

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This briefing note is a supplement to the portfolio report Local Implementation Plan Programme 2010/11 – Proposed Additional Schemes, where in recommendation 2.2 it was agreed to grant the individual scheme approvals detailed in Appendix B of the report. Specifically, item 5 in Appendix B, refers to the approval to implement the Eldon Road area 20mph zone scheme, subject to a positive response to the public consultation.
- 1.2 This brief confirms the positive response to the public consultation and the intention to implement the scheme with minor amendments to the waiting restrictions, as detailed on the amended plan in Appendix B to this briefing note.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council has a manifesto commitment to introduce 20 mph zones in residential areas surrounding schools. In line with this officers have prepared a programme of 20 mph zones for the 2010/11 financial year. The programme was prioritised using road casualty data that the Council receives from the Police. The ability to address more than one school in a zone and cost effectiveness was also factored in. The Eldon Road area is one of the schemes in this programme.
- 2.2 The Eldon Road area includes Eldon Infants and Junior schools and is in a location where remedial measures could be effective in improving road safety and help to encourage walking.
- 2.3 The Eldon Road/Cumberland Road junction is extremely congested during school arrival/departure times and often leads to the road becoming totally

blocked by vehicles. This situation has led to cases of road rage occurring and a stabbing was recently recorded at this location. In the event of an emergency this could also cause delays and prevent access to the schools and properties in the area. The school has requested measures to address this problem.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 A 20mph zone with associated traffic calming, is proposed for the Eldon Road N9, area. This would be identified by 20mph speed limit signs at the junctions of Forest Road, Lowden Road, Grosvenor Road and Rosemary Avenue with Hertford Road and St. Mary's Road with Nightingale Road. These entry signs indicate a full time 20mph zone and will have 30mph signs facing drivers when exiting the zone. Bounces Road to the south of the area is already in an existing 20mph zone that was implemented several years ago and has similar signing at either end at its junctions with Hertford Road and Montagu Road.
- 3.2 Speed cushions are proposed in the following roads: Chester Road; Cumberland Road; Devonshire Road; Eldon Road; Elstree Gardens; Forest Road; Grosvenor Road; Kingsmead Avenue; Lowden Road; Rosemary Avenue; St. Mary's Road (between its closure at the north-western end and Nightingale Road); St. Peter's Road; Westminster Road and Woodlands Road and a speed table is proposed outside the entrance of Eldon Infants School in St. Peters Road to regulate the speeds in the area to the 20 mph limit, and to make it safer for children crossing the road in the area and using the entrance.
- 3.3 Waiting restrictions are proposed on the corners of junctions in the area and in St. Peter's Road by the proposed speed table opposite the Eldon Infants school entrance. These will help to improve visibility for pedestrians and drivers as well as preventing obstructive parking for vehicles turning in the area. Keeping the corners clear will also help people with pushchairs and mobility scooters to cross more safely.

4. RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation was carried out by means of a leaflet and questionnaire, with a plan showing the measures, (see Appendix A). These were delivered to 1763 local residents and to Eldon Infants and Junior Schools. A total of 244 responses were received which represents a return rate of 13.8%.
- 4.2 In addition to the above, the details of the proposed scheme and the questionnaire were published on the Council's website. This enabled residents to complete the questionnaire and submit it without the need to return their response by post in the prepaid envelope provided.

The consultation responses are shown in table 1 below:

Table 1

Road Name	20 mph zone		Double Yellow lines	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Bounces Road	4	1	4	2
Chester Road	10	1	9	1
Coniston Gardens	11	0	11	0
Cumberland Road	12	1	11	2
Devonshire Road	10	1	10	1
Eldon Road	9	9	7	10
Elstree Gardens	8	0	8	0
Emsworth Close	4	1	5	0
Forest Road	7	1	7	1
Foxglove Close	0	2	1	1
Grosvenor Road	12	3	11	4
Hertford Road	8	0	8	0
Huntingdon Road	9	1	8	2
Kingsmead Ave	7	1	7	1
Lowden Road	6	0	6	0
Marshside Close	4	0	4	0
Nightingale Road	3	1	3	2
Rosemary Avenue	8	3	5	5
St. Mary's Road	24	3	24	4
St. Peter's Road	15	2	13	4
Westminster Road	14	0	11	1
Woodlands Road	17	1	16	2
Anonymous	7	3	11	0
Total	209	35	200	43
Percentage	85.7	14.3	82.3	17.7

4.3 It can be seen from the consultation results that the majority of the respondents 209(85.7%) are in favour of the proposed 20 mph zone and 200(82.3%) are in favour of the double yellow lines.

4.4 Several residents in Eldon Road objected to the extent of the double yellow lines in the Eldon Road/Cumberland Road area, as they felt these would create parking problems particularly at weekends. Some also objected to the cushions in Eldon Road saying that vehicles did not exceed 20mph.

Officer response: The double yellow lines on the straight section of Cumberland Road outside the Pupil Referral Unit were designed to help solve the severe congestion problem. However as this relates to school times there is scope to reduce the waiting restrictions on the straight section to Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm. This may have a lesser deterrent effect than double yellow lines although it would reduce the impact of the restrictions on local residents by allowing parking during the

evenings and weekends. Officers checked the speed surveys for Eldon Road and these confirmed that speeds were 20mph or less and therefore it has been decided to omit the cushions in Eldon Road. However the need for these will be kept under review.

- 4.5 Several residents requested a controlled parking zone is provided in the area because residents have difficulty in finding a space to park near their property. They also said there is a real problem with parking due to teachers and visitors to the neighbouring schools/shops/church who park in the residential area.

Officer response: There is a programme to introduce controlled parking zones in the borough. However, the introduction of a controlled parking zone only to the east of this area is currently identified as a potential scheme on the CPZ Programme for 2012/13.

- 4.6 Some residents said that vehicles often blocked their access to the garages in Cumberland Road and a disabled resident said this prevented him from attending his regular hospital appointments and he requested waiting restrictions were introduced in front of the garages to enable access at all times.

Officer response: The area in front of the garages should not be parked on and therefore double yellow lines would help to maintain access to the garages and prevent residents having their garages blocked. Double yellow lines have therefore been added in front of the garages in Cumberland Road.

- 4.7 Several residents requested some of the roads i.e. Forest Road, Grosvenor Road, Kingsmead Avenue, Lowden Road, Rosemary Road and Westminster Road, were made one-way as cars cannot pass each other because of parked cars and this causes congestion and road rage.

Officer response: The creation of a series of one-way roads in the area is something that could be considered as part of a separate traffic management scheme in the future. A series of traffic surveys would need to be undertaken as part of an investigation into the feasibility of introducing a scheme of this kind. However this type of scheme can increase vehicle speeds and reduce access for residents.

- 4.8 The Local Ward Councillors, emergency services and other interested groups were also consulted on the scheme proposals.

- 4.9 Officers received a request from Councillor Goddard to attend a site meeting with the Acting Head Teacher of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in Cumberland Road by Eldon Road, who complained that he had not received a consultation leaflet and objected to the double yellow lines outside the building in Cumberland Road as this was where his teachers parked.

Officer response: It is possible that the person delivering the leaflets believed the PRU was part of the Eldon Road school and this may be why they did not receive a copy. During the consultation period the Acting Headteacher advised the document could be found on the Council's website or alternatively a copy could be delivered, officers were advised that a response would be provided.

A site meeting was held at 3pm on 28th February with Councillors Goddard and Cranfield, and the Acting Head teacher of the PRU, Dave Cook and the Headteacher of Eldon Infants & Junor Schools, Julie Messer. The problems of traffic congestion and parking were discussed and Councillor Goddard expressed the need for some parking to be available for the teachers of the PRU. Councillor Goddard also advised that the adjacent garage blocks were underused and the block to the east of the PRU could be demolished and the land they occupied could be incorporated into the area of the PRU, and the remaining hardstanding could provide parking for the teachers. It was thought the timescale for this would be approximately three months and therefore consideration should be given to constraining the extent of the double yellow lines. It was therefore agreed that the double yellow lines on the corners would be implemented, however the waiting restrictions on the straight section directly outside the PRU would be omitted until the alteration to the garage block area are resolved.

- 4.10 Officers received a letter/petition from approximately 86 addresses (18 of these were from roads where a 20mph zone already exists just outside the proposed area). A further 13 were from Eldon Road addresses. The petition objected to the 20mph zone, speed humps and double yellow lines.

Officer response: The addresses on the petition were checked against the consultation responses and it was noted that two of these had indicated they were in favour of the 20mph zone but not the proposed double yellow lines. Even if the households that signed the petition are added to the consultation responses opposed to the proposals there is still a significant majority in favour of the scheme.

5. CONCLUSION

Given the overall positive response to the proposed 20 mph zone and double yellow lines on corners officers are progressing with the implementation of the amended scheme shown in Appendix B.

Background Papers

Consultation leaflet & questionnaire
Consultation Area Map
Consultation responses
Automatic Traffic Counts
Petition from residents