

# CROYDON

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13 March 2015

Dear Joanne

## TFL CONSULTATION ON TRANSFORMING FIVEWAYS CROYDON

We thought it would be helpful as councillors for Waddon ward to summarise the feedback that we have received from our constituents on this consultation. Based on our views as ward councillors and what our constituents have told us, we would like to highlight the following issues:

**Alternatives to the two proposals:** many constituents who contacted us suggested different ideas to the two proposals in the consultation. These typically focused on alternative flyovers, underpasses or road schemes. Our view is that the consultation missed a trick by not identifying a "long list" of possible options – even if these were then discounted for reasons of cost or practicality – as it is evident that our constituents assumed that other ideas such as underpasses had not been thought of. We also believe that there would be merit in TfL looking again at possible underpasses – including the possibility of replacing the proposed flyover in TfL's consultation with an underpass – in light of Mayor Johnson's recent comments in favour of tunnelising the Hammersmith Flyover. A number of people also thought that neither proposal would relieve congestion very much in the long run and that improvements to public transport, or a park and ride scheme, should be considered.

**Absence of traffic data:** quite a few constituents told us that they found it difficult to express a preference for a particular option because of the absence of current traffic flow data and modelling data to show the effects of the two proposals on local traffic flows. We share this concern but do recognise that this consultation is the start of

the process. That said it is clear to us, going forward, that robust evidence needs to be presented to demonstrate that either proposal will significantly improve traffic flows and reduce congestion. Some concern was also raised by local residents about the potential for rat-running under both proposals (for example, in proposal one the artist's impression suggests that vehicles will still be able to drive down Epsom Road and turn onto Purley Way. We would have expected to see this T junction removed under this proposal so that traffic could flow more smoothly along Purley Way).

**A lack of detail in both proposals:** many constituents who contacted us raised concerns about the impact of both proposals on the local environment which they felt were not highlighted adequately in the consultation booklet or at the public exhibitions. The biggest concern was around the potential loss of a sizeable part of Duppas Hill Park, particularly as the artist's impression under proposal one suggests that considerable widening of Duppas Hill Road would take place. We share this concern and will want to see a thorough environmental impact assessment undertaken and published in full alongside the preferred option. Some constituents also told us that they found the consultation disingenuous as it did not say up-front that both proposals would involve the loss of some residential and commercial properties, including the historic Waddon Hotel under proposal two, as these factors could be expected to have a bearing on how people responded to the consultation.

**The approach taken in the consultation:** some Waddon residents were concerned that their views will be dwarfed by large numbers of motorists living in, for example, Sutton who would only be interested in faster journey times to Croydon regardless of the effect on the local environment and community in Waddon. Many constituents who contacted us were unhappy that the booklet compared the two proposals with the "do nothing" option but the online consultation did not provide for the "do nothing" option to be specifically chosen as the preferred way forward. We hope that the analysis of the responses can be broken down, for example, by postcode, so that the views of Waddon residents can be identified and considered explicitly. We also believe that the "do nothing" option should be offered as an explicit choice alongside TfL's preferred option in the next stage of the consultation – with traffic flow and modelling data demonstrating clearly how the preferred option compares with "do nothing" in terms of reducing congestion.

**Lack of specific improvements at Fiveways:** many constituents who contacted us were concerned that the two proposals would not actually improve traffic flows or road safety at Fiveways junction. We share the view expressed by several constituents that the Croydon Road/Purley Way junction is not Fiveways junction. Our understanding is that both proposals are designed, in part, to take traffic pressure off Fiveways although, as previously noted, we will need to see evidence that this will indeed be the case. However, under either proposal, additional improvements will still be needed at the actual Fiveways junction to make this

junction safer for cyclists and pedestrians. In particular, we would like to see a more user-friendly system of pedestrian crossings at Fiveways as an explicit part of the development of the preferred option.

**Community involvement:** whilst the public exhibitions proved popular, those residents who live closest to Fiveways and the Croydon Road/Purley Way junction did express concern that, as the local community most affected by the proposals, they had not been more actively engaged by TfL in developing the options and as the consultation was prepared. Several local flat-dwellers told us that they did not receive TfL's consultation booklet. As ward councillors, we were also disappointed that nobody from TfL was available to come to the Waddon Safer Neighbourhoods Panel AGM on 9 March to speak to residents about the consultation. Our view is that, going forward, it is essential that all residents who are most affected by any changes – such as residents of Croydon Road and Waddon Park Avenue under proposal one – are kept fully engaged. We would be happy to arrange meetings between TfL and our constituents as work progresses.

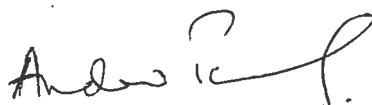
**Impact on bus services:** a number of residents raised questions about the effect of both proposals on local bus services, particularly the 154 and 157 which currently serve Stafford Road. Whilst the booklet said that bus services would be improved under both proposals, residents noted that the artist's impression of Stafford Road under proposal one would result in the loss of the bus lane and the local bus stop. Many of our constituents rely on local buses and we look forward to seeing TfL's detailed plans for improvements to local buses as the preferred option is developed.

We are copying this letter to Isabel Dedring (Deputy Mayor of London – Transport), Cllr Tony Newman (Leader of Croydon Council) and Cllr Kathy Bee (Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, Croydon Council) and to our constituents who have contacted us about this consultation.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Robert Canning



Cllr Andrew Pelling



Cllr Joy Prince

**Waddon Councillor Surgeries**  
First Saturday of each and every month: 10:00 am to 11:30 am  
St George's Church, Barrow Road, Waddon

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