

Item No. 13.3	Classification: Open	Date: 17 October 2015	Meeting Name: Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council
Report title:		Tooley Street Fresh Air Square project	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Riverside	
From:		Head of Regeneration North	

RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council approve the suspension of 2 residents parking bays at the proposed location outlined in appendix 1 for a trial period up to 12 months to accommodate the installation of a portable landscape module known as a "Fresh Air Square."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Part 3H of the Southwark constitution delegates decision making for non-strategic traffic management matters to the community council.
3. Paragraph 16 of Part 3H of the Southwark constitution sets out that the community council will take decisions on the following local non-strategic matters:
 - the introduction of single traffic signs
 - the introduction of short lengths of waiting and loading restrictions
 - the introduction of road markings
 - the setting of consultation boundaries for consultation on traffic schemes
 - the introduction of destination disabled parking bays
 - statutory objections to origin disabled parking bays.
4. The origins and reasons for the recommendations are discussed within the key issues section of this report.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The council is working with Team London Bridge and Transport for London (TFL) to trial a new initiative to improve air quality in and around London Bridge. Following a public ideas competition which generated over 60 high calibre entries, designers have been appointed to install a portable landscape module on the street known as a "fresh air square" which will include planting, trees, and seating.
6. The key objective of the project is to improve the environment of London Bridge, creating a new public space with a focus on health, sustainability and engagement. We will be working with experts in environmental impact assessment from King's College London to monitor the air quality before and after the trial to understand the impacts and to feed into future project proposals.

7. After assessing a number of different potential sites for the installation, the project team selected a site to trial the initiative between 110 and 112 Tooley Street, in front of the London Bridge Dental Practice which will replace 2 resident parking spaces for a period up to one year. A copy of the designs for the project and a plan of the proposed location can be found in appendices 1 and 2.
8. The fresh air squares will be funded and delivered as part of the TFL future streets incubator fund, which has committed £1.8m to transforming public spaces in the capital and helping convert more of London's streets into spaces where people can socialise and interact.
9. The location of the project, on Tooley Street is a TFL highway. TFL are the main sponsor and client for the project and have provided permission for the project to be carried out on their highway. TfL are highway authority for the road but Southwark act as traffic authority for the length and breadth of the parking bay, as an exemption (by TfL) from the red route. The council's parking design team have reviewed the project, and whilst the project does not require any formal traffic management order changes, the scheme will require the suspension of 2 existing resident parking bays for a trial period of up to 12 months. The parking design team recommended that a full consultation exercise is carried out with the local residents and key stakeholders, and a report be prepared for community council to agree to the suspension of 2 parking bays to enable the trial scheme.
10. The project will be constructed by the client team which includes Team London Bridge and TFL, and will be maintained by Team London Bridge. Maintenance commitments by Team London Bridge include commitment to maintain the planting within the Fresh Air Square using contractor CJS Plants who take care of 150+ hanging baskets and planters in the area. In terms of cleaning, Team London Bridge have extended their cleaning contract to cover this facility and have just signed a MET Police Plus agreement with Southwark Council and Southwark Police to deliver a dedicated police constable for the business improvement district (BID) area.

Policy implications

11. The London Bridge opportunity area contains one of the major transport interchanges in the borough and the New Southwark Plan has identified the need to improve the integration of development with the existing public transport, walking and cycling networks close to the proposed location for this scheme. The project is a demonstration project which seeks to improve the environment and air quality of London Bridge in line with the emerging policies in the New Southwark Plan. The project will be closely monitored for a period of 12 months by Kings College London.
12. The project will help to enhance the streetscene and environment of London Bridge, creating a high quality landscape feature with seating and planting which will improve the character and appearance of London Bridge and promote sustainable forms of travel including walking and cycling.

Consultation / Community impact statement

13. A consultation exercise has been carried out and all of the residents and businesses directly affected by the proposals were sent a letter, a copy of the design and a plan of the proposed location for the project on 3 September 2015

with a deadline for any comments by 25 September. The project team also held meetings with the businesses fronting the parking bays at 110-112 Tooley Street to discuss the project in detail and ensure there were no concerns or objections. In addition, Team London Bridge organised a drop-in event on the street adjacent to the proposed parking bays to further publicise the trial scheme.

14. During the consultation period 4 people contacted the council about the project, and all the comments received supported the project proposal.

Resource implications

15. The project will be funded, delivered and maintained by TFL working with Team London Bridge. The cost of parking suspension to the council will be paid for out of the project budget.

Legal implications

16. There is no requirement for any amendments to Traffic Management Order to be made under powers contained within the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTRA) 1984. The existing parking bays will be suspended temporarily for a period of up to 12 months. At the end of 12 months the bays will revert to residential parking bays.
17. The structure will be licensed by the council's highways team (a similar process for skips and hoarding licences) and the relevant indemnity insurances will be provided by the contractor.
18. TFL as statutory highway authority will approve the road safety for the final design to ensure there is no collision risk posed by the installation of the structure.
19. The highways department has approved the final draft of this report, with comment included from the parking and highway development teams.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Head of Procurement

20. Comments from the head of procurement were not sought, as the design competition was led by Team London Bridge and their partners.

Director of Legal Services

21. Comments from the director of law & democracy were not sought, as the scheme does not require any traffic order amendments.

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services

22. Comments from the strategic director of finance and governance were not sought as the project is funded by the TFL Future Streets Incubator fund.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Design documents	160 Tooley Street	Leonna Staple 020 7525 4954

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Proposed location
Appendix 2	Design

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Jon Abbott, Head of Regeneration North	
Report Author	Leonna Staple, Project Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	5 October 2015	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law & Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	6 October 2015	