

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY)**

WEDNESDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2003

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 3.10 (3)**

**ITEM 5.2 (REPORT FOR INFORMATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE)
MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL
ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 3.9**

**1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS
- BUSES ALONG RYE LANE**

At the Executive meeting which considered the six month update on the Rye Lane CCTV parking enforcement scheme, both ward Councillors and Executive Members raised concerns about parking enforcement in Peckham Town centre, in particular:-

1. Lack of enforcement by traffic wardens to tackle vehicles blocking traffic for prolonged periods
2. CCTV enforcement only taking place for one side of Rye Lane at a time, so vehicles parked at bus stops or parked dangerously on the opposite side of the road are not being addressed.
3. Displacement of parking problems – particular to Nigel Road, Peckham Rye, the Elm Grove/ Holly Grove loop, Choumert Road and Alpha Street.

Could the Executive Member please outline the timescales within which each of these problems will be addressed?

RESPONSE

With respect to enhanced enforcement has already commenced and Rye lane is enforced by CCTV between 07.00 and 19.00 every day. There are also at least two parking attendants in or adjacent to the street between 08.30 & 18.30 Monday to Saturday with limited visits on Sunday. Between 1st October and 21st November, Parking Attendants spent a total of 1,297 hours patrolling Rye Lane and issued around 500 PCNs. Additionally, almost 3,000 were issued through cctv. London Transport recently met with the Parking Section and congratulated them on the success of their operation; it was this success that enabled the bus companies to restore their service to Rye Lane.

However it is the case that companies in Rye Lane have to take deliveries, often through the use of large vehicles and therefore loading is permitted at certain times. These deliveries can take some time as it is not possible to

unload an articulated lorry in five minutes. Most deliveries however are completed within half an hour.

It is inaccurate to state that only one side of Rye Lane is enforced by CCTV. Generally speaking there are loading restrictions on one side in the morning and the other side in the afternoon to allow shops to take deliveries. However, there are parts of the street, such as adjacent to bus stops, where restrictions are in force morning and afternoon. There are also offences for which there is no exemption such as parking on bus stops or pedestrian crossings. In all of these cases, enforcement is carried out through CCTV at all times between 07.00 and 19.00.

Any rigorous enforcement regime will result in some displacement of the problem. However, the streets referred to already receive a similar or greater level of enforcement than that received in other CPZs for example:-

The Holly Grove/Elm Grove loop The possibility of introducing CCTV enforcement is also being assessed if funding can be obtained for set-up costs.

Choumert Road has received 1,217 visits with the issue of 351 PCNs

Alpha Street has received 471 visits resulting in 163 PCNs.

Nigel Road and Peckham Rye are also visited regularly although few PCNs are issued, as most of the parking is very short stay. However we also hope to introduce CCTV enforcement in this area.

The bus companies have already expressed satisfaction with the current enforcement and are experiencing very few delays. They accept that the street will never be completely free of traffic as it will always be necessary for vehicles to make deliveries as long as Rye Lane remains a shopping centre. There will also be problems caused by disabled drivers and persons picking up or setting down passengers parking for up to three hours in the case of the former and five minute in the latter. Night time enforcement that be introduced when the cameras are upgraded to a level that will allow clear photographic evidence it is estimated that this will be probably within three to four months.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

I don't think the reply tackles the problem at source and I think Nick was at the meeting when other Executive Members raised their particular concerns. I've asked the Chief Executive to investigate allegations that a number of traffic attendants are failing to ticket certain vehicles and indeed are colluding with some of those people that they are failing to ticket. So the fact that some of these wardens are roaming round and round these streets and the vehicles are still sitting there, is still a bit of a problem. There is funding available which is being generated off Rye Lane and what local people are looking for is an adequate answer, one which they will believe and will resonate with their day to day experience. My question is can you give a timescale for the installation of CCTV or just in some cases the change of the order, so CCTV can be used to enforce those areas which are suffering greatly as a result of the displacement of parking from Peckham Town Centre.

RESPONSE

Mr Mayor, I appreciate we get these answers very late in the day, can I draw Councillor Simmons attention to the very last line of the answer. I think the answer is there: within 3 to 4 months.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE - LIGHT POLLUTION

Is the Executive content that Southwark Council is doing enough to tackle light pollution and if they are not content what new initiatives are planned to address this?

RESPONSE

Yes. The comments from the Directors of Environment and Regeneration on the original motion put before the Council on 17 September set out a full range of measures that the Council is taking to tackle light pollution including careful design of street lighting and consideration of potential sources of light pollution when applications for planning permission are received.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

Can he tell me when they employ the Ecology Officer that they are planning to, going to the extent of cutting the Park Ranger Service, does he think that maybe the Ecology Officer might have a view on this and might actually say we need to be able to cut down on our light pollution so people can see the night sky. The reason I ask that is because it seems to me this issue has gone to the Executive and they have said business as usual, we are not going to do anything.

RESPONSE

No Mr Mayor, precisely the opposite. The Executive agreed to implement a motion passed by Council Assembly which was moved by one of his colleagues.