

Item No. 4.	Classification: Open	Date: September 14 2005	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Deputation requests	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor)	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly consider whether or not to hear a deputation from Friern Road Tenants and Residents Association.
2. That council assembly consider whether or not to hear the deputation from residents of Etherow Street.
3. That council assembly consider whether or not to hear the deputation from the tenants and residents of the Wooddene Estate.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. When considering whether to hear each deputation request, council assembly can decide to
 - Receive the deputation at this meeting or a future meeting; *or*
 - That the deputation not be received; *or*
 - Refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/sub-committee.
5. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. Only one member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than 5 minutes. After this time members may ask questions of the deputation for up to 5 minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public gallery where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Deputation request from the Friern Road tenants and residents association

6. The Friern Road tenants and residents association wish to address council assembly regarding the proposal to move the number 12 bendy bus stand on Lordship Lane to outside a block of flats on Friern Road and the increase in noise and pollution that is caused by the additional traffic in the road.

Residents of Etherow Street

7. The deputation concerns the proposal to make the Lordship Lane end of Friern Road into a one-way system up to Etherow Street. The deputation

states that this would make Etherow Street into a 'rat run' for the traffic that needs to drive into Lordship Lane. Traffic would be forced to turn right into Etherow Street and left into Barry Road to the lights at the junction with Lordship Lane. The residents feel that the 440 foot long road is overused for the following reasons:

- Bus stands for No.40 buses and No.12 bendy bus
- Everyday traffic
- The entrance to St. Anthony's school is in Etherow Street and consequently the school drop off and pick up creates congestion twice a day, plus there is a danger to the children and their parents crossing the road to get to and from their cars which park in Etherow Street and Norcroft Gardens
- There is an elderly people's complex in the road
- There is a home for asylum seekers/homeless families which requires extra rubbish removal, deliveries and visitors
- Noise and pollution created by all of the above
- The speed of the buses driving through Etherow Street makes the houses shake and is damaging foundations.

Tenants and Residents of Wooddene Estate

8. The tenants and residents of Wooddene Estate on Queens Road, Peckham wish to make the council meeting aware of the significant problems at Wooddene arising from the protracted decanting process. In particular, they state that they are desperately concerned about crime and safety in the light of the murder that took place at their hall on Saturday August 27 2005.

9. The request states:

"We are also concerned about the treatment of tenants in the reallocation process, the state of disrepair in the block and the treatment of leaseholders in the process. We believe that the council has to take action urgently to address these concerns.

"The purpose of our deputation; we urgently call on the executive to:

- Put into place an immediate programme of security measures including regular patrols by police and community wardens, comprehensive CCTV coverage, and replace and where necessary enhance lighting on all corridors and stairwells;
- Speed up the decanting process, and to do so on a block-by-block basis, closing down blocks as they become empty; to redouble efforts to find suitable homes, and apply rigidly the rule that decantees receive priority in all home offers;
- Increase the budget available to compensate leaseholders, with immediate effect, so they receive sums that enable them to buy equivalent flats in Peckham;
- Stipulate that the only qualifying offers to tenants shall be those that meet the decent homes standard, or be capable of meeting it within one month of acceptance."

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Comments from the strategic director of regeneration – Number 12 bus

10. London Buses' procedures for consultation on bus route changes have been considered by overview and scrutiny committee and at the transport consultative forum. This matter has also been taken up by the London Assembly's transport committee and, taking into account the conclusions of overview and scrutiny committee, the council has made submissions to that committee. In general, the statutory obligations on London Buses to consult on matters such as route changes limit their responsibility although it is noted that they are increasing their efforts to consult by, for example, sending representatives to community councils when requested. For matters such as changes to the highway and the positioning of bus stands to facilitate bus operation on all borough roads it falls to the council to carry out consultation.
11. Consultation on changes to the bus stands at the terminus of the number 12 route was carried out by Southwark Council. The results of this consultation have been reported to London Buses. Residents have concerns about the proposal to make part of Friern Road one-way and it is not recommended that this is carried out.
12. London Buses have reported that, as far as bus operations are concerned, the present arrangements are operating satisfactorily and the reliability of route 12 has improved since November 2004.
13. London Buses have informed us that they have thoroughly investigated the option of extending route 12 to Forest Hill as a result of suggestions raised throughout the consultation period. However, having undertaken a cost benefit analysis their conclusion is that there is no business case for this as the link is already provided by routes 176, 185 and 312.
14. Officers will request a copy of the investigation and cost benefit analysis undertaken by London Buses so that it can be reviewed by council officers and ward members to ascertain if the final decision not to re-route the service to Forest Hill is fully justified. This assessment should be carried out before any decision to commission a further study.
15. The effects on traffic of the bus stands in Lordship Lane and Friern Road have already been addressed by the stage three safety audit that prescribed recommendations to improve safety, operation of the bus stands and traffic management in the area. Officers will assess the impact on amenity of the bus stands with specific reference to noise issues.
16. The current evening frequency of the route 12 service is the same as when the route was previously being served by route master buses. However, the new buses have a larger capacity to cope with growing demand for the service.
17. London Buses have informed the council that the type of bus used on the route is prescribed in the tender document with the service operator. Changing the type of bus at certain times of the day will increase the cost to the operator. Using a smaller bus would also result in an increase in the number of buses accessing the area to meet current capacity requirements, which in itself have impacts on traffic, safety and amenity. However, officers will continue to explore with London Buses possible ways in which amenity and safety can be further enhanced.

Comments from the strategic director of housing – Wooddene Estate

To follow

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	02.09.05