



B.B.R.A.G.

THE BROMLEY BOROUGH ROADS ACTION GROUP

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Committee Members: R.W.Lawson, M.J.Stilwell, P.Appleby, D. Andrews

Councillor George Taylor
London Borough of Bromley
Stockwell Close
Bromley
BR1 3UH

cc. Gareth Davies

27 February, 2006

Report on the Old Hill Traffic Calming Scheme (ELS06095)

Dear Mr Taylor,

Having now studied the above mentioned report which you are considering at your meeting on Thursday, and had a meeting with some of the local residents, we have the following comments:

1. We support the proposal to change the existing "single cushions" on the lower part of Old Hill into full width flat top tables, albeit with some reservations given below. This seems to be a reasonable compromise between the views of different residents and should remove much of the discomfort for road users.

However, Madeline Clarke and other residents who live on that stretch of Old Hill are still concerned about the traffic noise, ie. the "thumping" noise created when vehicles go over the humps, particularly heavy vehicles. She feels that changing the cushions to full width tables may not improve matters in that regard, or might even make it worse. I think this can be tackled in several ways:

A – By ensuring that the tables do not have "aggressive" leading or trailing slopes, and do not exceed 75mm in height, which is particularly important bearing in mind that they are sited on a hill. Also we request that the tables are sufficiently long that they ensure a smooth flow for traffic.

B – That the tables are clearly marked, both by advance warning signs (at the junction with Brenchley Close to remind people for example), and by suitable road markings. Note that one of our members has suggested that they even have a coloured leading edge as shown in the enclosed photographs from a site in Hatfield which he notes as being both very effective and clearly visible.

We also believe that the above two points (ie. improved warnings and no sharp changes to the road surface) are particularly important to avoid the kind of recent accident that happened to Anja Szkodowski.

C – That the positioning of the tables be carefully considered. For example, it may well be best to replace the upper of the two cushions with a speed table in the same position as there are no immediately adjacent houses at that point. But the lower one is probably best replaced by a speed table that spreads across the road at the junction with Coniscliffe Close.

We would also like to request that a meeting is arranged between the relevant council traffic engineer and local residents to discuss and agree exactly what is going to be installed so that such people as Madeline Clarke and her neighbour, Roger Dubbins can be reassured on the issue of noise generation.

2. We are also in favour of the proposed additional parking restrictions and remarking of the existing road markings and "slow" signs.

3. On the basis of the above, I am likely to submit a question to your meeting that will read something like the following (final wording to be decided later):

"On behalf of BBAG and local residents, I would like to support the proposal to replace the two single speed cushions with tables, but will the council promise to have more discussions with residents about the exact form, size and location of the tables before installation to overcome their concerns about the noise impact?"

4. Note though that we are exceedingly concerned about the apparent introduction of a new democratic principle in the report where it says "*A further thirty questionnaires were received from various areas outside the consultation area. These were not included in the analysis as the scheme did not directly impact on them*". Presumably these were from road users, and possibly some BBAG members, and to suggest that road users are not directly impacted by this traffic calming scheme is a nonsense. So I will also be submitting another question along the following lines:

“Why did the council choose to ignore the views of 30 people who submitted their comments to the consultation exercise? Is this not the same kind of abhorrent attempt to pick and choose the right kind of “consultees” that we have seen previously in Bromley – for example with the Manor Park Road scheme?”

Yours sincerely

Roger Lawson
Chairman