

**Letter from Cllrs Grant, O'Mara and Pennycook:**

18<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Dear Chris,

As you know for many months we have been collating the views of our residents and listening to the concerns that many local people have raised with us regarding the proposals for the partial pedestrianisation of Greenwich town centre.

While we appreciate that there are mixed views about the proposals a substantial number of residents are opposed to the proposed scheme on the basis of very serious concerns about the potential knock on impact upon their streets. It was for this reason - as well as the existing traffic and rat-running pressures in West Greenwich - that we asked for a package of traffic management measures to be put before residents for consultation earlier this year.

As ward councillors we have come to the conclusion that consideration of proposals to partially pedestrianise Greenwich town centre should be suspended for the foreseeable future.

We remain concerned at the inadequacies of the current traffic management system in Greenwich town centre and believe that the status quo does not befit a World Heritage Site. However on balance we feel that our focus at the present time should be on introducing measures to address the existing traffic/rat running problems in residential streets in West Greenwich and - noting the recent publication of details for the Olympic Test event in July and LOCOG's ongoing development of the "Last Mile" programme for the Olympic Games - any temporary traffic management that may be required to facilitate pedestrian access through the town centre during the Olympic Games.

Yours sincerely,

Cllrs David Grant, Maureen O'Mara and Matthew Pennycook

**Reply from Cllr Chris Roberts, Leader of Greenwich Council**

25<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Dear David, Maureen and Matt,

Thank you for your letter concerning the proposals for the partial pedestrianisation of Greenwich Town Centre.

You are correct that the plans LOCOG is developing are likely to require specific traffic management solutions for Greenwich Town Centre in order to manage the volume of pedestrian spectators accessing the Park from the various public transport locations. Any such plans will also require a trial period to test their robustness.

You will of course recall that we had been hoping to align a decision about this with the recent proposals for traffic management measures within the West Greenwich area upon which we have recently consulted.

You will also be interested to know that I met with the Deputy Mayor of London and senior TfL officials earlier this week and it is clear that whatever previous noises have been made by their more junior staff, there is no fundamental problem with our proposals and they would be more than content to see them progress.

However, they did raise with me a desire to engage in public consultation later in the year on a wide range of traffic proposals. This will directly affect areas of the borough to the east of the Town Centre. Although no reference was made to the Town Centre in this conversation, in my judgement these proposals raise further issues which I believe we would wish to consider prior to the implementation of any permanent traffic management scheme.

Given these issues and the almost certain need to test proposals ahead of the Games, I accept that it is unlikely we can progress any permanent measures at this time. Therefore I agree that we should suspend work on our own proposals and focus at this time on what traffic management measures might reasonably be implemented to address concerns about rat running, as well as facilitating the operational needs up to and during the Olympic Games.

Yours sincerely,  
Councillor Chris Roberts  
Leader of the Council