

HATCH END BROADWAY – Parking, loading and congestion issues

A stakeholders' meeting was held on 29 July, organised by Harrow Council and chaired by Councillor Susan Hall. An invitation was made to residents and business owners in the immediate vicinity to attend. About 80 people attended, including 7 members of the Association's committee. This is an initial consultation and stakeholders were invited to state what they considered to be the main problems. One issue identified was that of all day commuter parking which makes access for residents difficult and contributed to traffic congestion. Another parking problem was that around local schools, especially Grimsdyke. Existing restrictions need to be more effectively enforced it was also felt. With regard to traffic congestion along the Broadway, the essential causes of this are due to the narrowing of the Uxbridge Road from two lanes to one at the end of the dual carriageway, the pedestrian crossing, and the traffic turning right into Grimsdyke Road. The speed of traffic, notwithstanding congestion, was also considered a hazard by some. With regard to loading, Hatch End Traders stated that there was sufficient space at the rear of business premises in the Broadway for such purposes. Loading was an issue for London Buses as lorries often use bus stops for this purpose and this causes problems for them and contributes to traffic congestion as buses are forced to stop on the main road. Another loading issue is that of lorries outside Tesco, which often block traffic along the service road, which Tesco actually owns.

Possible solutions were also discussed at the meeting. To address the problem of commuter parking, Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) have been used in other parts of the borough. These involve a prohibition of parking on designated roads at a particular time; say 11am to 12 noon, so as to discourage all day parking. Residents on these roads would have to purchase a permit to park on these roads at these times. Concern was expressed on the possible knock-on or displacement effects of such a scheme, in that as certain roads become restricted, motorists will venture further down side roads in search of unrestricted parking. A CPZ scheme would require extensive consultation as all residents affected by the scheme have to agree to it.

It is probable that car parking will have to be paid for in Hatch End. The new Council administration is reviewing this and, at the moment, Hatch End is only one of three car parks in the borough which are free to use. There may be the possibility of improving traffic flow at the junction with Grimsdyke Road such as altering the road to allow a right hand turn lane for those heading westerly along the Broadway; also a 'split' pedestrian crossing, with an island in the middle, might be considered.

The next step in the process is for Council Officers to consider the many comments made at the meeting and suggest possible solutions to these various problems *then* to come back with these for further consultation. This is likely to be in October. The Hatch End Association will keep members informed on this via the website.

Tony Allen

Chairman