

3 September 2019

Our ref: 5518154

Thank you for your request received on 2 August 2019, for the following information:

Why at the Ballards Lane by The Grove Pedestrian Crossing are there no stems of tactile paving extending to the back of footway as stipulated in the government's 'Guidance on the use of Tactile Paving Surfaces' ?

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below.

Why at the Ballards Lane by The Grove Pedestrian Crossing are there no stems of tactile paving extending to the back of footway as stipulated in the government's 'Guidance on the use of Tactile Paving Surfaces' ?

Response

No information is held on the reason for the use of non-tactile paving.

Background to the Question

It appears that the footway on Ballards Lane beside the crossing was re-laid in 2008 or 2009 on the south-east side of Ballards Lane and in 2008 or earlier on the north-west side.

We do not have a record of the reason for the layout of the tactile paving at this location, but longer serving officers recall that the practice in Barnet at that time was to minimise the use of "tails" on tactile paving layouts.

Officers' recollection is that, at least in part, this was responding to concerns or perceived concerns that people with some conditions would find walking on tactile paving painful. The provision of tactile paving along the kerb primarily serves a safety purpose in alerting blind or partially sighted pedestrians to the change from

footway to carriageway. The “tail” on the paving, extending to the back of the footway helps guide people to the crossing point. The compromise was that provision would be made beside the kerb to address the safety aspect, but that the “tail” would be omitted.

Current practice in Barnet, at new installations and when footways are re-laid, is to provide tactile paving with “tails” in line with the guidance. If the absence of the “tail” at this particular crossing is making it hard for you or someone you know to locate the crossing please let us know. We may then be able to address this location in isolation from a small budget for making accessibility improvements, without waiting for the next major footway relay scheme.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a ‘soft opt-in’ under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.