

London Borough of Barnet  
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW  
4 August 2023  
Our ref: 10141924

Thank you for your request received on 6 July 2023, for the following information:

**Thank you for your prompt reply to my email of 29 June, to which I will respond separately (but not today).**

**As with my previous email, I want this email to be included within the public comments on the scheme so that it will then fall to be considered by the Council before a decision is made about whether to proceed with the proposal and so I am also sending this email to [traffic.consultations@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:traffic.consultations@barnet.gov.uk) . Again I am copying in Councillors and I have also included NAME REDACTED.**

**This email concerns how the Council formulated the proposals for the scheme and the data that the Council s assembled to inform that process-**

**1. In the Council's letter sent to residents with in the Controlled Zone it was stated 'The aim of the schemes are to create a safer environment for pupils to walk and cycle to school and to deal with the high traffic volumes around schools at certain times of the day. The schemes also help to prevent potential conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians, crowding from pupils and parents outside school gates, as well as preventing the potential of young children being forced onto roads with traffic.' It was also stated that 'A priority area for making our streets safer and cleaner are the roads around our schools'. 'Cleaner was used in the sense of 'breathing cleaner air'.**

**Please would you provide any available analysis as to how the proposals will achieve these objectives - and not merely relocate them? If there is no such analysis please would you explain the basis on which the Highways Service has decided to put the proposals to consultation?**

**For example, it seems likely that the proposals will not result in fewer pupils being brought to/collected from school by car and that parking, congestion and the resultant pollution will merely be relocated from one part of Bethune Avenue/ Crescent Road to another ( so pupils walking to school will still be exposed to it), whilst non- school traffic will be diverted to other roads -**

**no doubt including the already heavily congested Friern Barnet Lane, where pupils walking to Friern Barnet School will be exposed to even more air pollution than they are at present.**

**2. The Council instructed external consultants to advise in relation to the formulation of the scheme. Please provide copies of the instructions that were issued and of any subsequent changes or clarifications as well as copies of the reports/advice and suggested scheme(s) that the consultants prepared.**

**3. What alternative arrangements to those now the subject of the consultation were considered by the Council and/or the consultants?  
Please provide copies of relevant documents.**

**4. Why were the alternatives (if any) not selected? Please provide copies of relevant documents.**

**5. Please provide the results of all the traffic count/speed surveys carried out in connection with the proposals, including the analysis of the results and conclusions. As well as Bethune Avenue this should include those for The Ridgeway, The Crescent, Glenthorne Road, Park Way, Beaconsfield Road, Bellevue Road, Hemington Avenue and any others that I may have missed.**

**6. In relation to traffic accidents, in your email to me of 8 March you wrote 'In terms of collisions around the area there has been 8 collisions around the local area (Holly Park Road, Bellevue Road, Bethune Avenue, The Ridgeway, Parkway, The Crescent) between 01/01/2017-31/12/2021.'**

**Holly Park and Bellevue Road are not relevant here. The TfL interactive collision map shows 4 collisions (this is for 01/01/2017 - 31/12/2022, so more recent than the data you mentioned.), one each in Park Way, The Ridgeway, Bethune Avenue (near the junction with The Ridgeway) and in Crescent Road (near the junction with Glenthorne Road). None of these incidents**

**7. Have any impact or risk assessments been carried out for the proposals- not merely for the "Controlled Zone" but also for the adjacent roads- not merely those "on immediate edges of the school street" which as per your email on yesterday was the extent of the consultation letters?**

**We would have expected the Council, in considering what (if any) school street proposal to choose to put out for consultation, to have considered the effect of proposals not just on the proposed "Controlled Zone" and its immediate edge but also on the "Free Zone" comprising the remainder of Bethune Avenue, and on the lower part of The Ridgeway as well as the sections of Glenthorne Road and The Crescent near to the top end of Crescent Road.**

Please provide copies of all such assessments. If no assessments were carried out, please explain why.

8. Please also arrange for all the documents etc. that I have requested to be added to the Engage. Barnet website.

9. As you have refused to change the timing for the consultation please arrange for all documents etc. to be provided to me and placed on the website within the next few days. If some documents etc. will take longer to locate than others then please send them piecemeal rather than delaying until all have been gathered together

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

## Response

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

However, we believe that the exceptions detailed below apply to some/all of this information and this is withheld. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

***1. In the Council's letter sent to residents with in the Controlled Zone it was stated 'The aim of the schemes are to create a safer environment for pupils to walk and cycle to school and to deal with the high traffic volumes around schools at certain times of the day. The schemes also help to prevent potential conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians, crowding from pupils and parents outside school gates, as well as preventing the potential of young children being forced onto roads with traffic.' It was also stated that 'A priority area for making our streets safer and cleaner are the roads around our schools'. 'Cleaner was used in the sense of 'breathing cleaner air'.***

***Please would you provide any available analysis as to how the proposals will achieve these objectives - and not merely relocate them? If there is no such analysis please would you explain the basis on which the Highways Service has decided to put the proposals to consultation?***

***For example, it seems likely that the proposals will not result in fewer pupils being brought to/collected from school by car and that parking, congestion and the resultant pollution will merely be relocated from one part of Bethune Avenue/ Crescent Road to another ( so pupils walking to school will still be exposed to it), whilst non- school traffic will be diverted to other roads - no doubt including the already heavily congested Friern Barnet Lane, where pupils walking to Friern Barnet School will be exposed to even more air pollution than they are at present.***

The Council has undertaken traffic counts across the areas of influence and will continue to undertake traffic counts should schemes move forward into implementation.

Furthermore, diffusion tubes have been provided to schools to measure air quality as an initial baseline exercise. Should engagement be successful we will also roll out air quality monitoring on other roads outside of any school street boundaries.

We have also discussed internally regarding using Bethune Car Park to allow parents to undertake park and stride to the school and this has been accepted by our Greenspaces team.

**2. The Council instructed external consultants to advise in relation to the formulation of the scheme. Please provide copies of the instructions that were issued and of any subsequent changes or clarifications as well as copies of the reports/advice and suggested scheme(s) that the consultants prepared.**

Please see attached documents.

**3. What alternative arrangements to those now the subject of the consultation were considered by the Council and/or the consultants? Please provide copies of relevant documents.**

No other alternative arrangements went to consultation.

**4. Why were the alternatives (if any) not selected? Please provide copies of relevant documents.**

We emailed the school for their opinion on inclusion of Hemington Avenue option. They responded by stating that they support that inclusion.

**5. Please provide the results of all the traffic count/speed surveys carried out in connection with the proposals, including the analysis of the results and conclusions. As well as Bethune Avenue this should include those for The Ridgeway, The Crescent, Glenthorne Road, Park Way, Beaconsfield Road, Bellevue Road, Hemington Avenue and any others that I may have missed.**

Please see attached documents

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Information noted.

**7. Have any impact or risk assessments been carried out for the**

***proposals- not merely for the “Controlled Zone” but also for the adjacent roads- not merely those “on immediate edges of the school street” which as per your email on yesterday was the extent of the consultation letters?***

***We would have expected the Council, in considering what (if any) school street proposal to choose to put out for consultation, to have considered the effect of proposals not just on the proposed “Controlled Zone” and its immediate edge but also on the “Free Zone” comprising the remainder of Bethune Avenue, and on the lower part of The Ridgeway as well as the sections of Glenthorne Road and The Crescent near to the top end of Crescent Road.***

***Please provide copies of all such assessments. If no assessments were carried out, please explain why.***

It is unclear on impact assessment you are referring to.

***8. Please also arrange for all the documents etc. that I have requested to be added to the Engage. Barnet website.***

This is not an EIR question. However, I can confirm we do not need to provide this information on the Engage Barnet website.

In previous engagement exercises/consultations only designs have been provided

***9. As you have refused to change the timing for the consultation please arrange for all documents etc. to be provided to me and placed on the website within the next few days. If some documents etc. will take longer to locate than others then please send them piecemeal rather than delaying until all have been gathered together***

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### **R13 – Personal data**

We have also redacted the names of individuals by virtue of Regulation 13 of the Environmental Information regulations 2004, as disclosure of this information to the public generally, in the Council’s view, would not be consistent with the data protection principle found in Article 5.1(a) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) lawfully, transparently and fairly. We have considered whether disclosure is lawful and fair and whilst it may be lawful under Article 6.1(f) GDPR (legitimate interests) it would not be fair to the individuals concerned who would not expect the names of junior employees to be disclosed as part of such a request.

We consider that regulation 13 (Personal information) applies to the information requested.

Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information.

### **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](http://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](mailto:foi@barnet.gov.uk). Or by post to Records & Information Management Service, Assurance Group, 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](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.