

Email exchange between BRRA, Be First, Barking Riverside Limited and LBBD (between October 2022 and February 2023) regarding traffic and parking on Barking Riverside estate

Ken Webster <kwebster@barkingriverside.london>

To: veniliabatista@yahoo.com

Cc: Cameron.Geddes@lbbd.gov.uk, Atolagbe Funmi, Barking Reach Residents Association, Pete Mason

Fri, 3 Feb at 09:59

Dear Venilia

Please accept my apologies for the time taken to respond the questions raised following the meeting prior to Christmas, which I have addressed below. I am still waiting on feedback on a couple of the points, which I will forward on once in receipt.

The level of congestion observed on Fielders Crescent adjacent to the Riverside campus at school pick/drop off in 2020 was significant. As a consequence, BRL in conjunction with our Parking Management contractor implemented a “No Stopping” zone, which meant that vehicles were not permitted to stop on the road (or pavement) to either decant or take on board passengers. In doing so, this reduced instances where this occurred, and dramatically improved the flow of traffic in this area, and in turn improved the safety for both pedestrians and other road users.

Currently the TFL bus route uses the new road (Merz Rd) which connects Renwick Rd to Fielders Crescent (under the railway viaduct), where there are a number of loading bays, which parents are able to utilize in order to drop off/pick up pupils. Shortly the new Station Square bus route will open, meaning that the bus route will no longer use Merz Rd. As a result a further 2 no. loading bays on Merz Rd can then be used for pick up/drop off, which had previously been used as bus stop only. The bays are clearly marked as loading bays, which is supported by the adjacent parking management notices on the lampposts. Recent observation of the parent vehicle traffic at pick up/drop off times suggests that the current number of loading bays is adequate for this volume of traffic.

Initial observations of the road leading off of Fielders Crescent that the SEN buses use to gain access to the school loop, does not support that vehicles are currently parking on this road, however further observations will be carried out in the coming month to sense check this. Our parking management company have installed signage on this road, and periodically enforce. However, we are unable to enforce beyond the school boundary, and where vehicles are blocking entry to the SEN vehicles that are parked on school land, this will be for the school to address.

Funmi is now working with all schools on site to promote sustainable and active travel to the school sites whilst discouraging unnecessary car journeys to the school by developing a School Travel Plan for all schools. It has been agreed that David Wylde will lead on this and work closely with Funmi on implementing agreed action plans and planned initiatives. To measure how effective the Plans are, all schools are to take part in TfL'S STARS accreditation scheme and work towards achieving Bronze level of accreditation by 2024. BRL have funded one active travel initiative in all four schools to be trailed for 1 year.

Funmi has confirmed that the section 106 in place does not cover traffic wardens, as there is no specific requirement or financial monies on the section 106 for this purpose. As a result parking enforcement on the Estate roads falls under the management of BRL, which we will continue to monitor.

Although changes to parking legislation and the remodelling of the roads surrounding the school has meant that we have ultimately removed the “No Stopping” Zone, the parking behaviours of vehicles at school drop of/pick up are being monitored, and where necessary consideration will be given to re-implement the “No Stopping” zone in order to resolve poor parking. Funmi has also confirmed that the schools have been advised to inform parents that they are still able to use the school car park.

The questions in relation to the road markings, loading bays and Copenhagen style crossing at the junction between the side roads and Fielders Crescent on plots 201-203 has been referred to our consultants, as soon as we receive confirmation on the rationale behind the design I will revert back. Consideration is being given to determine if it is possible to restrict where delivery vehicles can park (if they do not use the loading bays) to prevent them parking in an unsafe manner elsewhere. Additional Loading Bays cannot be placed on Fielders Crescent as this is a bus route which will ultimately be adopted, which must allow enough width for the two buses to pass at the same time.

In relation to the parked cars on Mallards Road, Tandem have been tasked with liaising with LBBD in order for the gaps in the double yellow line to be addressed (road has been adopted), which in turn should prevent cars from parking on Mallard Rd. Unfortunately if the cars are not breaching any highway laws, there does not appear to be anything that can be done immediately, such as ticketing the vehicles. Once Tandem have confirmed the LBBD position in relation to completion of the yellow lining, we will then be able determine the next step. On a similar point I can confirm that since the meeting that LBBD have addressed the give way line marking on the Mallard/Minter Road junction, although the surface on this junction still requires addressing, which Tandem will address with LBBD at the same time.

We are finalising the proposed changes to the Handley Page road issue, and currently finalising costs, logistics, timescales and the comms plan which will be required to inform residents of these changes and the impact to the parking on Handley Page. We will of course include you on the comms roll out once this is finalised.

I have prompted Tandem to consider solutions to prevent vehicles, including the LBBD bin lorries from driving on the Galleons cycle ways/pavement. Tandem are also carrying out a programme of repairs around the Estate, including replacement of broken pavers and tactiles, some of which will have been broken as a consequence of vehicles driving on the Galleons pavement. Therefore ensuring vehicles are unable to access the repaired areas goes hand in hand with this piece of work.

Please come back to me if you would like to discuss any of the above points, and as soon as I receive information regarding the outstanding points I will come back to you.

Kind regards

Ken Webster

From: Venilia <veniliabatista@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2023 9:44:50 AM
To: Councillor Geddes Cameron <Cameron.Geddes@lbbd.gov.uk>; Atolagbe Funmi <Funmi.Atolagbe@befirst.london>; kwebster@barkingriverside.london <kwebster@barkingriverside.london>
Cc: Pete Mason <peter.mason3@btinternet.com>; Barking Reach Residents Association <barkingriversideresidents@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: dangerous crossings and parking around Barking Riverside

Good morning all,
Happy new year!

Apologies for the long silence since our last emails and meeting.
Being busy with work coupled with the Festive season always slows things down.

However, the residents association committee and indeed local residents are very much interested on an update since our last meeting, especially since Funmi cancelled the meeting we had scheduled with the school on 22 November.
Could **Funmi/Ken** please provide an update on what was discussed at our last meeting please?

Separately, **Ken** - I'm not sure if you are the right person to report this to but several residents have complained about the traffic light system by the station which is repeatedly faulty, being either completely off at times or constantly on red on all three sides. As discussed previously, I understand that being a temporary system, faults are bound to happen more frequently, but we must all agree that for the safety of all it is imperative that the lights are working at all times or at least there is someone constantly monitoring them.

Finally, **Cameron** - please find evidence of council rubbish trucks using the pavement on Galleons Drive taken just this morning on [this link](#) (the file was too big to attach here).

Looking forward to a response.
Best regards,
Venilia

From: Venilia <veniliabatista@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 11:06:58 PM
To: Atolagbe Funmi <Funmi.Atolagbe@befirst.london>; Ken Webster <kwebster@barkingriverside.london>; Councillor Geddes Cameron <Cameron.Geddes@lbbd.gov.uk>
Cc: peter.mason3@btinternet.com <peter.mason3@btinternet.com>; Barking Riverside <barkingriversideresidents@gmail.com>; Councillor Hornby Victoria <Victoria.Hornby@lbbd.gov.uk>; Councillor Channer Josephine <Josie.Channer@lbbd.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: dangerous crossings and parking around Barking Riverside

Dear Ken, Funmi and Cameron,

Thank you very much for your time yesterday.

As previously mentioned, we'd like to thank you again for addressing the pedestrian crossing and lighting issue on the River Road/Merz Road Junction so quickly.

I've included a summary of our meeting yesterday with a few action points that the Barking Reach Residents Association (BRRA) is requesting on behalf of local residents. We have not mentioned any specific timeline for this but we would really appreciate an update for our January 2023 residents meeting, since our November meeting is next week and we don't usually hold one in December.

What was not mentioned, but perhaps should have been, is that with the congestion around the school means that emergency vehicles cannot get through, so it is a serious issue.

As always, the BRRA is always open to working closely with all estate stakeholders for the benefit of local residents, so do please feel free to come back to us with any further comments and suggestions.

Best regards,
Venilia Amorim
Secretary
Barking Reach Residents Association

**Barking Reach Residents Association (BRRA) meeting with BRL, Be First, LBBD
Tuesday 15 November 2022
3pm via Teams**

Attendance:

Ken Webster, BRL
Funmi Atolagbe, Be First,
Councillor Cameron Geddes, LBBD
Pete Mason, BRRA
Venilia Amorim, BRRA
Zahra Awani, BRRA
Matt Scott, Thames Life

Meeting started: 3pm

AGENDA

1. Phase 2
 - congestion around school and side roads of Fielders Crescent
 - visitor/loading bays and drop off/pick up bays
 - road markings/signage
2. Phase 1
 - congestion around school and near shop of Handley Page Road
 - road markings/signage (Mallards Road/Minter Road junction)
 - bollards/planters on Galleons Drive
3. Any other business

1. Phase 2

All Barking Reach Residents Association (BRRA) members present stated that the congestion and parking around the Riverside Campus school and through Fielders Crescent during school drop off/pick up times is getting worse, especially now with the current works going on. Additionally, the school's 'loop', which sits directly opposite the school's main entrance is usually used for children in the Bridge School (special educational needs) with school buses often unable to enter or exit the area because of parked cars everywhere. This is often congested and potentially posing safety concerns to the children who genuinely need to use a vehicle to get to school. Ken and Funmi had investigated and found it took 20 minutes to get through the Fielders Crescent congestion.

This overall situation is a long-standing persistent problem and the BRRA at the last residents meeting was asked by residents to propose that a long-term solution is found, with at least a short-term one negotiated in the meantime.

It was also noted the danger around Fielders Crescent's adjacent roads where there are no road markings delineating pavements and the road. In addition, the issue of misplaced loading bays in the area was also brought up. Quite often delivery vans are dangerously parked on the main road because drivers can't be bothered to park in the loading bays or don't know the bays exist on the roads leading up to the terraced houses.

Funmi reported that it had been agreed that the school car park could be used by parents. Pete said a warden would be needed to show parents where they could park, in the loading bays and the car park - presuming Funmi meant the temporary car park - this is no long-term solution.

Pete said that if the proposed agreed scheme arising from this meeting, of six drop off bays on Merz Road are made available, with proper signage (three only temporary), the car park and a warden, do not resolve the issue in the long term. Over a period of months, further drop off bays will be needed, along Fielders Crescent near the school. He also pointed out that the section 106 that sets out the available parking has been altered before, when an extra 104 spaces were provided in Phase 1 of Barking Riverside, and can be again for Phase 2.

It is requested that:

1. Planters on Merz Road are temporarily moved from three of the six loading bays to accommodate more vehicles during drop off/pick up times, with three at least properly sign-posted for 30 minute usage during school drop off/pickup times, in addition to their loading bay function.
2. Drivers/school parents are informed via the school that the temporary car park is still available.
3. A warden is reinstated (by BRL, the council or the school itself) by the school's access road to safely direct traffic towards the temporary car park or loading bays, which are being used as drop off/pick up areas. Funmi to look at whether the section 106 funding will cover it.
4. BRL/Be First to assess how best to decongest the school's 'loop' for optimised use.
5. BRL to assess how best to address the lack of road markings on the streets off Fielders Crescent as there is no visibility of where a pavement ends and the road begins.
6. BRL to assess layout, positioning and number of loading bays for potentially better placement around the area, especially on Fielders Crescent.

2. Phase 1

All BRRA members present stated that there is a similar case around George Carey School on Mallards Road in terms of congestion, parking and road markings.

The junction of Mallards Road and Minter Road is particularly dangerous as road markings and signage is not necessarily clear as to who has right of way.

It was also noted that several vehicles park along the green on Mallards Road (behind the school) blocking oncoming traffic and often causing a hazard as people will try to cross the road in between parked/stopped cars. This could perhaps call for an additional pedestrian crossing.

There is also the issue of cars parked on Handley Page Road, which often pose a danger to pedestrians and children crossing to go to school and to use the Playhill Park.

Ken informed the meeting that there is a live action plan to address parking on Handley Page Road and that BRL is now trying to find a way to make changes through a planning application to allow visitor parking and better parking conditions. However, there is no time scale yet.

The problem of vehicles, including council rubbish vans, using the pavement on Galleons Drive persists. This is extremely dangerous for pedestrians, not to mention the damage caused to the pavements that residents will have to pay for via their service charge bills.

It is requested that:

7. BRL/Tandem to address road markings on Mallards Road/Minter road junction.
8. Be First/LBBD assess how best to deal with parked vehicles on Mallards Road and potentially install an additionally pedestrian crossing.
9. Visitor parking on Handley Page Road near Coop is made available, however, timed and regulated accordingly; perhaps some regulation such as drop off 30 minutes during school opening/closing hours to allow for drop off/pick up, 60 minute or 2 or 4 hours weekday daytime and free during evenings and weekends.
10. BRL/Tandem install planters/bollards on Galleons Drive pavements (north side) to block vehicles from driving on them. Cameron to address complaint about rubbish trucks driving on pavement (will forward images soon).

3. Any other business

None declared.

Meeting ended 4pm

On Friday, 11 November 2022 at 10:51:35 GMT, Venilia <veniliabatista@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Ken,

Thanks for your email requesting points of discussion.

We've put together a brief agenda:

Agenda items:

1. Phase 2

- congestion around school and side roads of Fielders Crescent
- visitor/loading bays and drop off/pick up bays

- road markings/signage
2. Phase 1
- congestion around school and near shop of Handley Page Road
 - road markings/signage (Mallards Road/Minter Road junction)
 - bollards/planters on Galleons Drive
3. Any other business

Hopefully we can discuss all within the time and come to some positive conclusions.

Cameron - thanks very much for coming back with your availability.

It would be greatly appreciated if your colleagues Victoria and Josie could attend our online meeting on Tuesday 15 November at 3pm.

I've cc'd them on this email now and will forward the meeting invitation separately.

Best regards,
Venilia Amorim

Secretary
Barking Reach Residents Association

From: Venilia <veniliabatista@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 9:30:35 AM
To: Atolagbe Funmi <Funmi.Atolagbe@befirst.london>; Ken Webster <kwebster@barkingriverside.london>
Cc: Councillor Geddes Cameron <Cameron.Geddes@lbbd.gov.uk>; peter.mason3@btinternet.com <peter.mason3@btinternet.com>; Barking Riverside <barkingriversideresidents@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: dangerous crossings and parking around Barking Riverside

Hello Ken,

Thanks very much for responding and also for addressing the lighting under the train bridge and pedestrian crossing near the station so quickly.

Several residents have already noticed and mentioned it to the residents association committee.

This is greatly appreciated.

As for our quick meeting, most of us are free on Tuesday 15 November at 1.30pm. Will this be convenient to you?

Could Funmi and Cameron also confirm their attendance please?

Looking forward to your reply.

Best regards,

Venilia

On Thursday, 3 November 2022 at 16:40:56 GMT, Ken Webster <kwebster@barkingriverside.london> wrote:

Good Afternoon Venilia

Please accept my apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

Funmi and I would be happy to meet with you, however Funmi is currently on annual leave and will be available from the 10th November as below:

- Thursday, 10th Nov (3pm – 4pm)
- Monday, 14th Nov – AM only
- Tuesday 15th Nov – Any time.

In the interim I can confirm that temporary pedestrian crossing lights have been installed at the junction (please see attached), as well as temporary lighting, until such time that the permanent systems are installed.

We would be more than happy to discuss any other Estate related matters, however you are welcome to contact Tandem in the first instance who are best placed to answer any Estate related queries given they manage the public realm on our behalf. That said if you can provide further details on the Estate points you would like to discuss, I can then liaise with Tandem prior to the meeting.

Please let me know if any of the above times are suitable, and if not please can you suggest some alternative dates and times.

I look forward to hearing back.

Kind regards
Ken

Ken Webster
Senior Operations Manager

From: Venilia <veniliabatista@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 7:06:50 PM
To: Atolagbe Funmi
<Funmi.Atolagbe@befirst.london>; kwebster@barkingriverside.london <kwebster@barkingriverside.london>
Cc: Councillor Geddes Cameron <Cameron.Geddes@lbbd.gov.uk>; Pete Mason <peter.mason3@btinternet.com>; Barking Reach Residents Association <barkingriversideresidents@gmail.com>
Subject: dangerous crossings and parking around Barking Riverside

Dear Funmi and Ken,

I'm reaching out to you in a resident's capacity but also as a member of the local residents association to highlight three issues with traffic management on the Riverside Estate. **I'm proposing that we meet to discuss the below points.**

Firstly, residents of the Barking Riverside estate have contacted the residents association over the past few weeks regarding how dangerous it is for pedestrians to cross Renwick Road and

Worboys Grove, near the new station, where the new temporary traffic light system is now placed.

The new three-way traffic system is for traffic to drive under the train line viaduct on to Worboys Grove but this is only appropriate for driving traffic, since there is no provision for pedestrian crossing. This makes it extremely dangerous particularly during school hours since these two roads are heavily frequented by school children.

Can you please let us know when this will be rectified so that it is safe for pedestrians to cross?

Secondly, I believe we are all aware of the issues around parking and dropping off/picking up school children around Riverside Campus. We believe there are at least six loading bays off Worboys Grove that could ease congestion by being used as drop off/pick up areas, but have noticed that at least half of them are being blocked by planters. Is there a reason for this? Could we find out why they are being blocked when the need for additional temporary space for school parents is needed? If this is made available, then the school could better communicate this to parents and the congestion around the school and further up in Fielders Crescent (where entrance to apartment block garages are being blocked) would definitely be eased.

Finally, as the days get darker sooner, the short walk from the station to Fielders Crescent is extremely dark with no street lighting at all. With resident safety in mind, could you let us know what the implementation plan for this is?

There are several other issues around the estate that the residents association is keen on talking to you about, so we would welcome a brief meeting to discuss the three issues I've highlighted here plus any others that come to mind.

We would, therefore, really appreciate it if you could let us know of a date and time where we could discuss this for a brief hour or so. With that in mind, could you please send us your availability over the next two or three weeks?

Best regards,
Venilia Amorim
Secretary
Barking Reach residents Association