



9 March 2009

Mr Trevor Pugh
Director of Environment
London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames
Civic Centre
44 York Street
Twickenham
TW1 3BZ

Dear Mr Pugh,

Environmental issues around Barnes Station

I have recently been working with residents in the Roehampton Lane area of my constituency, many of whom use Barnes Station. As a result of my work, a number of issues have come to light which I would be grateful for some action upon from Richmond Upon Thames Council.

1. Provision for bus passengers in Rocks Lane

The space for bus passengers at the top of the steps leading up from Barnes Station is not very great, consisting, effectively of a ledge on either side and then some very steep steps. Provision on the southbound side, towards Roehampton, is slightly better as there is a narrow pavement - but is also hardly ideal.

I appreciate that there is limited space to improve provision without major bridge widening works, but could you please investigate whether there is any way to build a reasonably straightforward extension out over the embankment to this waiting area in both directions?

2. Litter and rubbish in area around bus stands

The northbound side of the bridge, towards Barnes, has a litter bin for bus passengers' rubbish, but there is no bin on the southbound side of the bridge. The picture overleaf was sent to me by one of the Putney residents I'm working with, which illustrates the problem when no bin is provided.

There is a less severe, but still far from ideal situation of rubbish being thrown over onto the embankment on the other side of the road despite the bin provided, so would you consider putting up some signs at the stops, as well as an extra bin. Are you confident that the bin here is emptied regularly so that there is no overflow which might encourage littering?

I have been in touch with South West Trains about the state of the embankment and they have had a go at clearing it, but this is not a long term solution to the problem.

Continued



3. Personal safety

Several residents have raised issues of personal safety in the Barnes Station area. These range from potholed and uneven pavements and paths to and from the station, insufficient lighting, the maintenance of the woodland bordering these paths as well as general safety concerns getting to and from a relatively isolated part of our area when it is dark.

One resident writes that there is *"a high potential for accidents especially at night when the potholes [in the paths] are not so visible, and if someone falls on such a narrow pavement they could be hit by passing traffic."*

Other residents have raised similar concerns.

4. Potholed roads

Please could you arrange for urgent inspection of roads in the vicinity of Barnes Station because too many of them are severely potholed. I would especially draw your attention to Gypsy Lane, Mill Hill Road and Queens Ride. Not only are these holes damaging to cars, but presumably Richmond Council wants to encourage people to cycle to the station, which they are less likely to do if the roads to and from the station are so dangerous for them.

I would be grateful for your attention to these issues and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart King

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