

Community Directorate
Paul Walker
Corporate Director

Cllr Richard Almond
& Cllr John Hinkley

16th December 2019

Dear Cllr Almond & Cllr Hinkley

Petition regarding footways and carriageways in Woodhall Gate & Albury Drive, Pinner

I refer to the recent petition presented on behalf of the residents of Woodhall Gate (nos. 43 to 73 & nos. 68 - 100) and Albury Drive (nos. 98 – 206 & nos. 113 – 215), Pinner and have been asked to respond on behalf of Paul Walker, Corporate Director, Community Services.

As the number of petitioners has exceeded thirty, in accordance with the Council's policy, I am writing to you as the lead petitioners. This response will be published on the Council's website and a copy sent to the Ward Councillors.

The views and concerns of residents are noted. However, in order to as far as is practicable, produce a fair and unbiased programme of both footway and carriageway works, these are based upon a robust scoring system which removes personal preferences but combines the results from condition survey carried out by an externally appointed consultant in accordance with the parameters of UK Pavement Management System, on behalf of the Council, to identify those roads across the whole of the borough where substantive works should be considered.

These shortlisted roads will then be scored, with scores based on usage, the risk factor, corporate objectives and impact to develop programmes of works. The extent of the programme is limited by the available budget and is prioritised on the scores given to each road. It is not possible to score every road in the borough so scores are not available for any road that is not shortlisted.

Consequently I regret that Woodhall Gate and Albury Drive are not included within the current programme of works, nor within the programme for 2020/ 21.

However, all footways and carriageways are inspected on a periodic basis up to three times a year. As a result of these inspections localised repairs are implemented where a defect exceeds the Council's investigatory levels and is considered to be a potential hazard to pedestrians or vehicle users.

I have requested that an inspection be undertaken outside the two properties in Albury Drive 172, where there has been a suggested fall and no 155, where the resident utilises a wheel chair to ensure that if there are any defects within the Council's investigatory levels that they are marked and ordered for repair with our contractor.

Unfortunately there is only a finite budget and I trust you will appreciate the need to target maintenance on a priority basis. The size of the budget does not relate to the level of Council Tax paid, and we can only work with the budget that is afforded for maintenance of the highways infrastructure asset.

Furthermore with the level of budget it is not possible to undertake works based upon the aesthetics of a road. The budget is made available to arrest the deterioration of the highways infrastructure asset across the whole of the borough, whether this be entire lengths of the road or parts as we implement asset management practice.

I will happily meet with both of you. However, when we last met with Cllr Hinkley in April 2017 to discuss Woodhall Gate, this degenerated in to arguments between residents so would respectively request that this be between Councillors & Officers only.

Yours sincerely,

Antony Durke
Infrastructure Manager, Highways & Lighting
Tel no: 020 8424 7644
Email: antony.durke@harrow.gov.uk