



Friends of Tooting Common

31 August 2015

Tim Addlesee
Senior Engineer
Engineering Consultancy
Housing and Community Services Department
Wandsworth Borough Council

Tooting Common Heritage Project: proposed closure of Dr Johnson Avenue

Dear Mr Addlesee

1. These are comments by Friends of Tooting Common on this proposed closure.
2. Friends of Tooting Common certainly supports the proposal for closure in principle, on the basis that it would join up two sections of the Common currently separated by the road, and make it easier and safer for users to move between the two sections. It would also slightly increase the size of the Common. Given our role in helping to promote the public use and enjoyment of the Common, we would certainly welcome these developments.
3. We are however aware of considerable concerns about likely increased levels of traffic, particularly on Elmbourne and Tooting Bec Roads. We believe that these should be carefully considered, and fully taken into account, in reaching a decision on the proposal. Indeed we think these traffic issues should have been considered earlier, prior to considering whether to include the proposal in the HLF bid. In this connection, we are similarly concerned that the degree of consultation on this topic, and the time allowed for it, has not been fully adequate for this important issue.
4. We also understand that (though not mentioned in the proposal), with the closure of Dr Johnson Avenue charges might be introduced for the car park. We are concerned at the effect of this on users of the Common and on others who currently use the car park, and of consequent implications for parking elsewhere. We think that the implications of charging, if intended, should be fully considered, and consultation carried out with those likely to be affected, before a decision is reached.

5. We would be happy to discuss our comments with you.

Best wishes

Peter Ramell
Chair, Friends of Tooting Common

Circulated to:

Paul McCue
Simon Ingyon
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Richard Glassborow (TC MAC)
FOTC members