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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2006

REPORT BY CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND LEISURE

RESPONSE TO PETITION ON TRAFFIC ROUNDABOUT NEAR ST HELEN'S CHURCH , W10

This report provides information for Members on action taken following the petition presented to the Council requesting the re-landscaping of the traffic roundabout near St Helen's Church, W10.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Background

The petition read:

"This roundabout used to be a local landmark when it was planted with flowers. Now it has become an eyesore. In recent years the roundabout perimeter was paved. However, no thought then was given to the design of the green space of the roundabout. One fir and some five birch-like looking trees were randomly planted on top without much thought about their location. One birch was soon broken and the "Christmas tree" fir does not seem to be even vertical. The overall roundabout impression is of an abandoned piece of urban space rather than an eye catching local landmark.

One has only to go to France or Spain to see roundabouts where they think about its design. They make either a visual composition out of plants or even locate some artwork on the roundabout to make the place memorable. It can be as simple as a flower clock or an ornament.

If a question of lack of financial resources arises one has to ask why raised flowerbeds (similar in size to the mentioned roundabout) can be attractively planted in southern parts of the borough. Some examples are – the raised bed tucked away on the corner of Addison Crescent, W14 and Holland Villas Road, W14 or at the back of the Town Hall.

Is this the north-south divide within the borough raising its ugly head again?

Could you please sign this petition to request some innovative planting creation for the roundabout by the Council's Parks Department? We the undersigned request the above mentioned improvements to the landscaping of the roundabout at the crossing of St. Quinton's Avenue and St. Mark's Road, W10."

73 people signed the petition.

2. **Action**

The difference in standards

- 2.1 There is no difference between the standards of horticultural maintenance in the north of the borough and the south as the whole grounds maintenance contract is performed to a single specification.
- 2.2 The intersection of St Quinton's Avenue with Highlever Road and North Pole Road has a similarly well-laid out traffic island to the examples provided from the W14 area.

Improved provision in the short term

- 2.3 All of the trees are being removed and the level of the turf will be lowered so as to permit the laying out and planting of ribbon beds within the circle. These will have Annuals planted within them as at the other end of St Quinton's Avenue.
- 2.4 Another central "feature" tree will be planted in place of the fir tree.

FOR INFORMATION

**Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environmental Management
and Leisure.**