

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

COUNCIL – 22 June 2005

REPORT BY DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING POLICY AND TRANSPORTATION

RESPONSE TO PETITION ON SHOPFRONT IMPROVEMENTS AT 67- 77 BARLBY ROAD, NORTH KENSINGTON

This report provides information for Members on action taken following the petition presented to the Council concerning the shopfronts of the local shopping parade at Barlby Road, North Kensington.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Background

The prayer of the petition said,

"We the shopkeepers and business people of Barlby Road North Kensington would like to apply for a grant for the improvement of the exterior appearance of our shop fronts (including security grilles). It has been confirmed by our councillor Mr Robert Atkinson that a grant is available to improve our premises and therefore please authorise."

2. Action

- 2.1 Following the receipt of the petition officers visited the site. It was noted that contrary to planning policy, a number of shops had external solid roller shutters. With the exception of number 71 Barlby Road these shutters were installed more than 4 years ago and are therefore exempt from planning enforcement action.
- 2.2 Funded by the Council's Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) grants are available for the removal of external solid roller shutters and improvements to shop fronts on a small section of the principal shopping area of Portobello Road. The grant was allocated to this area in particular because;
 - The presence of solid roller shutters was encouraging graffiti,
 - Levels of crime and fear of crime are high in this area,

- The area has been designated as a 'Safer Neighbourhoods' area by the Police and Council to ensure that crime and fear of crime issues are tackled,
 - The presence of solid roller shutters in this area was considered to be a major contributing factor to crime and fear of crime in this area,
 - The area is a primary shopping area.
- 2.3 The demand for grant assistance in the Portobello Road area (both in the target and peripheral target area for the improvements) is high and the LPSA allocation is likely to be fully spent.
- 2.4 For aesthetic reasons it would be desirable to make improvements to the shop fronts and remove solid roller shutters at Barlby Road. However, the area does not suffer from the same high crime or fear of crime levels or instances of graffiti as Portobello Road and there is therefore not the justification for reallocating LPSA funding to Barlby Road in this instance. It is considered that LPSA funding currently allocated to shop front improvements would derive greater benefit if spent at Portobello Road.
- 2.5 A bid will be submitted at the next stage of LPSA grant allocation for shop front improvements to Barlby Road parade.

FOR INFORMATION

**Councillor Daniel Moylan
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning Policy
and Transportation**