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From:

The Chief Executive
London Borough of Lambeth
Town Hall
Brixton Hill
London
SW2 1RW

Formal Complaint – Level 2

Re: Request for Review of Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) Brixton Hill ‘Q’

Dear Chief Executive

This is a formal Level 2 complaint regarding the response from Lambeth to my request for a review of the operating hours of the Brixton Hill Zone ‘Q’ CPZ, raised in my previous letter of 17th September, 2014.

The letter from Lambeth Council’s Complaints team explains that there is no funding to carry out CPZ reviews and closes with the standard rider that my complaint has been noted and may be followed up should resources become available.

I appreciate the point made in Lambeth’s response to my letter about the lack of funding & the drastic cuts that have been made to the Council’s budget by central government. However, I still do not feel I have received a considered response to my complaint.

In brief, these are the points I would like to have answered:

1. The CPZ in Brixton Hill Zone ‘Q’ has been in operation for almost nine years. A review was promised within 6 months of the original implementation. Residents from the Josephine Avenue Group have previously followed up with Lambeth Council about this post-implementation review. They were told that “local representatives” were formally consulted about the scheme shortly after its implementation in January 2006. Neither local residents nor the ward councillors at the time have any memory of this consultation.

I would like to know what actually happened. May I see a copy of this consultation or review? How did it work & who was actually consulted?

2. Nine years is a long time to run anything without the opportunity for change. Does Lambeth have a standard review procedure for long-term schemes such as CPZs? Can you provide evidence that any CPZ schemes operating in Lambeth have ever been reviewed and/or amended?
3. As noted, Lambeth cites lack of funds, or funds which have already been fully allocated to other measures, as the reason for not reviewing our CPZ scheme, I would like to understand the scale of funds needed to conduct a review. As a ballpark figure, how much would a review of CPZ ‘Q’ cost? How much did previous consultations (if any) cost, and how did that break down by counterpart (i.e. who was paid what)?
4. Despite the lack of funds for CPZ reviews, ward councillors on the opposite side of Brixton Hill from the Zone ‘Q’ area published a news letter in November this year stating that there

would be a review of parking arrangements for “Brixton Hill”, preparatory to the possible introduction of new CPZ schemes.

A common complaint amongst local residents is that there are too many individual CPZ schemes in Lambeth, and that there are often differences in operating hours from one street to another even within the same scheme (e.g. Elm Park in Zone ‘Q’ has only a 2-hour restriction, Leander Road, to mention just one street in the same CPZ, has a 10-hour restriction). The lack of a joined-up approach to parking in the Borough generally has resulted in commuter parking issues just being pushed from one area to another.

Please would you clarify if any review of parking arrangements for the Southern part of Brixton Hill will include the whole area, East and West sides of the Hill, and will therefore include CPZ Zone ‘Q’?

I look forward to hearing your responses to my points above.

Your sincerely,