



## Weir Estate Residents Association

c/o The Weir Link  
33 Weir Road  
London SW12 0NU

e: [info@wera.org.uk](mailto:info@wera.org.uk)  
e: [www.wera.org.uk](http://www.wera.org.uk)

Boris Johnson  
Mayor of London  
Greater London Authority  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA

20<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Dear Mayor Johnson

### **255 Bus Route Extension from Streatham to Balham**

I have been instructed by our members to write to you in order to request your intervention in the delays to the extension of the 255 bus route from Streatham Hill to Balham Station.

Currently the proposed extension has been delayed due to a stalemate between Lambeth and Wandsworth Councils. The bus route was consulted on last year (between 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009) with a vast number of residents in the area (68%), particularly on the Lambeth side of the route in favour of the proposed plans. However, this has since been held up following a petition and issues raised by a handful of residents on Old Devonshire Road and Wandsworth Council. Wandsworth has since been able to hold up the extension with no sign of a solution any time soon. Now I understand that Transport for London are involved in trying to resolve the matter but it would appear that Wandsworth Council have been able to dictate what happens with the proposals.

The Current proposed route would run from Streatham Hill Station along Sternhold Avenue, Emmanuel Road, Radbourne Road, Weir Road (all in Lambeth) and then Old Devonshire Road turning onto Balham High Road (both in Wandsworth.)

It would appear that Wandsworth have been allowed to dictate and disadvantage a far greater number of resident with a much smaller stake hold in the route itself. The main opposition came from Old Devonshire Road though the large Builders Merchants, Travis Perkins along that road are in favour of the route. We as an Association which would benefit greatly from the single Decker bus running along Weir Road do not believe it to be fair that a handful of people are able to disadvantage the many. There appears to be a clear stalemate between both councils with Wandsworth Council able to hold up the scheme and Lambeth Council in favour. I know as Mayor, you have been keen to encourage more people to use public transport, however in Thornton Ward were we are is very poorly served by public transport with a fair walk to catch a bus. This of course provides difficulties for the elderly and infirm on our estate and the wider community. I believe this has become more of a political football than considering the impact and benefit to local residents. I

find it absurd that with such a majority vote that one council is able to delay the route. There does not appear to be anyway forward with the current situation.

It is for this reason that we request you as our Mayor to intervene in order to get a resolution to the current situation. You can find all the relevant consultation documentation on the TfL website.

Our members feel that a bus route will provide many benefits to them and therefore we believe the bus route should be able to proceed without further delay and that Wandsworth Council should not be able to control the progress of the scheme. We had expected the route to have been implemented this summer, though it is now unclear when and if this will take place. Money has already been spent on traffic calming measures and road resurfacing in preparation of the route. As you see from above, the route services more of the Lambeth area than it does Wandsworth. Therefore the greatest consideration must be given to the residents along the Lambeth part of the proposed route. It is also our understanding from information obtained from a freedom of information request that it was only a handful of residents along Old Devonshire Road who signed and submitted the petition to Wandsworth Council.

The delay continues to mean that our residents and many others are cut off from local shopping districts due to be discouraged from walking the fair distance to the bus stops either at Poynders Road or Balham. This in turn has an impact on the local economy.

We believe the route should be able to proceed to implementation without undue delay as the consultation clearly shows a majority support.

We would appreciate your intervention in resolving the current issues around the route and encourage Wandsworth Council to seek to move forward on making a firm decision.

If you would like to discuss these issues further, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can contact me directly by email at [dave@wera.org.uk](mailto:dave@wera.org.uk) or at the address at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

**Dave McEvoy**  
**Chair**

**Cc: Val Shawcross – GLA member for Lambeth & Southwark**  
**Cllr Lib Peck – Ward Councillor Thornton Ward/Cabinet Member for Housing Lambeth Council**  
**WERA Executive Officers**