



The Association of British Drivers

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Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release

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Surveys Released by TfL Show Overwhelming Public Opposition to Congestion Charging Scheme for Greenwich

The Association of British Drivers (ABD) has been trying for some time to obtain the results of several surveys undertaken for Transport for London (TfL) on possible congestion charging schemes for the London Borough of Greenwich. These were completed as long ago as 2006 and our requests to see the resulting reports were submitted under the Freedom of Information Act some months ago. After repeated and unjustifiable delays, we have finally received them. What do they show? Simply that TfL had good reason to delay publication because the results are deeply embarrassing to their proposed plans.

To remind you, TfL were supposed to announce their plans for “traffic demand management” (i.e. a congestion charge or road tolls) in Greenwich in the summer of 2007. Now some politicians are denying there are any such plans, despite the fact that one of the reports we have obtained is actually entitled “Greenwich Feasibility Study” and shows exactly what was being considered.

More than one study has been performed and here's a summary of the findings:

IPSOS/MORI Report: 61% are Opposed

A report based on telephone surveys in November 2006 of people who have traveled through Greenwich town centre in the last six months showed that 61% opposed the introduction of congestion charging in Greenwich, versus 29% who would support it. In fact the opposition rose to 68% when only those who reside in Greenwich were counted.

Accent Report: 77% are Opposed

Another report, again based on telephone surveys and published in October 2007 shows 77% are opposed to the principle of a congestion charge scheme in Greenwich, with only 16% supporting it.

When asked to approve or disapprove such a scheme (presumably based on the proposals described to them), the figures became even more pronounced with 80% disapproving and only 9% approving.

Concern about Congestion

Note though that there is clear concern about the level of traffic congestion in Greenwich. For example from the latter survey, 64% thought that traffic congestion was a problem, and 15% of respondents (27% of residents) thought it "very important" to reduce congestion. But clearly they don't want a road toll scheme!

Increasing Opposition to Central London scheme

There was a majority who supported "*congestion charging in other parts of London*" in the first survey – possibly a comment on the central London scheme, or plain "nimbyism" as the report points out. However, in the latter survey, it is clear that 48% oppose the central London scheme versus 33% who support it. This of course contradicts other survey reports by TfL about the popularity of the central London scheme among London residents.

ABD Holds Another Public Meeting on this Issue

The ABD has already held one public meeting on this subject. We have another one scheduled for Saturday the 24th November commencing at 10.30 am at the Glyndon Community Centre, 75 Raglan Road, London, SE18 7JB. All are welcome.

For further information, please contact:

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About The Association of British Drivers (ABD)

The ABD is the leading independent organisation which represents the interests of private motorists in the United Kingdom. We campaign to protect the rights of individual road users and believe that road transport is a beneficial and essential element in the UK transport infrastructure. We oppose excessive taxation of motorists and are against tolls and road usage charging. We also campaign for more enlightened road safety policies. The Association is a "not for profit" voluntary organisation which is financially supported primarily by its individual members. More information on the ABD is available from our ABD London web site at www.freedomfordrivers.org