

Chair and Members

Planning and Environment Committee

I would like to request that civic administration be directed to prepare a community improvement plan (CIP) for the Hamilton Road Area.

There is a timely need to fashion a long term plan for this neighbourhood because infrastructure improvements are already scheduled for later this year but important opportunities will be missed if we do not coordinate these with other changes and initiatives taking place in the same area, such as:

- a) Significant social services relocating to Hamilton Rd.
- b) The decommissioning of Silverwoods arena
- c) Zoning issues and parking regulations that have created barriers to businesses opening.
- d) New visions being proposed by the Hamilton Rd. business and community associations.
- e) The potential loss of Ealing and Trafalgar public schools.
- f) Proposed special attention on this area by the core unit.
- g) Our commitment to the London Plan

Staff has suggested to me that a CIP would be the most appropriate way to address the challenges and opportunities this neighbourhood faces. It is a way to coordinate public and private investment, both planned and potential that is consistent with section 28 of the planning act.

The time and resources required for a CIP are easily justifiable when you consider that Hamilton Rd. is a major gateway and creates a powerful first impression of the city for those coming off the Highbury extension on their way downtown. As proud as the residents are of this neighbourhood, they know the time has come for a makeover.

When you travel from West to East along the artery that starts as Springbank Drive, turns into Horton Street and then finally becomes Hamilton Road, there is an uncomfortable disparity that cries out to be addressed. The age and nature of this neighbourhood is such that a few small investments could have a very large impact in the feel of urban regeneration. Hamilton road is a perfect example of a "Main Street," which means we could do our scheduled upgrades as an expression of the London Plan and have visible, inspiring results very early in our term.

I hope that you will support this recommendation because, although it is a personal commitment to residents of my ward, I think you will agree that it would be very good for the image and psyche of London as a whole.

In conclusion, we have already committed resources to Hamilton Road, so a more fulsome consideration in the form of a Community Improvement Plan would be wise since it would allow us to capitalize on opportunities, create a more appealing entrance to the city, reduce disparities, and quickly advance the London Plan in a cost-effective way.