
Brian Coleman Versus the Taliban



Outspoken Barnet Councillor Brian Coleman has brought down the wrath of Ken Livingstone, Transport for London and every other anti-car fanatic upon himself. His policies of removing speed humps from the borough, and generally trying to get the traffic moving, have incensed his foes. And his high profile television appearances espousing his pro-motorist views have incensed his opponents.

In addition to removing all speed humps in Barnet, it is alleged that cycle lanes have been removed, kerb build-outs cut back, pedestrian crossing points removed and a rogue bus lane camera that generated £1 million in fines in a year is to be removed.

TfL is threatening to withhold grants to the borough of Barnet (which all London boroughs rely on for road safety expenditure). The Mayor of London and the Green Party have suggested that people involved in accidents in the borough should sue the council, presumably on the basis that they may have contributed to the cause. *(Editor's Comment: In my opinion this is a legal nonsense as it has been only recently established in law that a council has no general duty of care to road users and in any case, there are likely to be no more accidents as a result).*

"TfL Stands for Taliban for London"...

Brian Coleman

Brian Coleman claimed TfL had no legal basis for withholding the grants and said *"These road humps are responsible for 500 unnecessary deaths, pollution and noise. The Mayor has no idea what happens in the suburbs and neither has TfL."* He also said: *"TfL stands for Taliban for London. I wish Ken well on his parenting leave. He can carry on looking after his baby and I'll look after Barnet's traffic."* Ken Livingstone said *"Barnet's transport agenda is recklessly anti-public transport, anti-pedestrian and anti-cycling. Barnet has become a laboratory experiment for some very ill-thought out policies."* *(Editor's Comment: A clear case of over exaggeration by both sides).*

Apparently Mr Livingstone and TfL fear that this outbreak of popular measures to improve traffic flows will spread to the rest of London as it has done already to Enfield and Richmond where some humps are also being removed.

Soon after the above row, Brian Coleman also hit the headlines by introducing £1000 fines for people who fail to follow recycling guidelines for their household rubbish in Barnet. Clearly he is a man who does not fear making a stand for what he believes in.