Hopes for 20mph zone and safer crossings

Along-fought campaign to improve road safety on Church Lane and Creighton Avenue could soon see some positive changes. Organisers of the WALKSAFE N2 group say Barnet Council highways officers have indicated they will support most of their demands.

In particular, plans are being drawn up for a 20mph speed limit on Church Lane, assisted by two vehicle-activated signs that will flash at drivers approaching the speed limit. A redesign of the Church Lane junction with East End Road will slow down traffic coming in off the High Road and is asking formally for the hedge of Church Lane to be reduced. The plans include guard rails to guide pedestrians towards the crossing. The highways department is looking at a couple of options to slow down traffic coming in off the High Road and is asking formally for the hedge of Creighton House to be reduced. All these proposals will be put to the Area Environment Sub-Committee meeting in October.

Setback

However, the group’s demand for a 20mph signalled junction where Church Lane meets the High Road has been rejected. The campaign group has asked for a copy of the feasibility study and has asked the highways department to look at what other options there are to improve safety, both on the zebra crossing at the end of Church Lane and the pedestrian crossing on the High Road.

“Despite this setback, we do not want to give up on increasing safety at this junction, especially with the expansion of Martin Primary,” says Emily Burnham, of WALKSAFE N2. “If you have ideas or want to join this campaign, contact WALKSAFE on walksafe2@yahoo.co.uk.”

Lamppost umbrellas

By Daphne Chamberlain Down comes the rain... Again. You’re dressed for summer, because you thought the sun might just stay out. No shelter, no trees, no shop awnings, and it’s pelting heavens-hard. Here comes another soaking. But wait! All the lampposts around us are sprouting 2.2 metre (7ft) wide umbrellas. Are you dreaming?

Well, at the moment, yes. However, Russian designer Mikhael Belyaev has had the same dream, and he’s presented it to the Moscow Department. So, who knows? Maybe the dream could become reality.

Belyaev’s lamppost umbrellas would be operated by sensor, sprouting at the first sign of rain, and closing after three minutes if nobody was sheltering under them. To see for yourself, just Google Lampprella.

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