21/11/2026 Haringey – Full Council Meeting
Lead Petitioner: Jasmin Darling
Deputation Party Members: Zainab Suratwala I William Britain ICara Cooney
Mayor, Cabinet Members, Councilors, thank you for hearing us.

My name is Jasmin Darling, lead petitioner and mother of two small children, both at school in Highgate. I'm joined by Zainab Suratwala, Independent Parent Representative, and William Britain and Cara Cooney of The Highgate Society. Most importantly, I'm speaking on behalf of more than 3,300 people who signed this petition, demanding safe roads outside our schools.

We are here tonight because a young girl, Melissa Premaratne, lost her life walking to school, on a zebra crossing on North Road. Our thoughts are with her family and friends. With heavy hearts, I ask that throughout this debate you keep her memory front of mind.

Thank you to everyone driving positive change since, and thank you, Council, for the measures taken so far. We welcome them. But permanent solutions, rooted in traffic data and the lived experience of those who use these roads, must follow.

In December 2023, a school wrote to the Council about "*a number of occasions where cars have failed to stop*" at the zebra crossings on North Road. A Council officer replied in writing promising a review of the location. When recently asked for a record of that review, there was no available information.

So tonight we seek genuine commitment, named accountability, and outcomes with completion dates. Our petition made five requests, and I will take you through each in turn.

First, a school crossing patrol operative – lollipop people. We welcome the recruitment advertisement currently live on Haringey's website. We ask for a start date, cover through the winter whilst the roles are filled, and confirmation that this is a permanent role, funded from operational budgets and not one-off spending.

Second, an urgent, independent safety review. We understand this is currently underway and ask the Concil to name the consultant and publish their brief; to ensure the review is built on robust data and involves pupils, parents and residents; and to publish the full final report. Several junctions appear to be excluded from the scope, such as Southwood Lane, Jackson's Lane, and Highgate High Street. Highgate is one connected network uniquely positioned between Camden, Islington, and Haringey borders, so we ask that these streets and other recommended streets are included, or at worst, covered by subsequent phases.

Third, permanent improvements, including signal-controlled crossings. We ask for a commitment that these are properly assessed, with a decision date and communicated accordingly. And we ask for transparency on funding: TfL has allocated Haringey about £1.2 million this year for safety schemes. How much will reach Highgate? What portion of Haringey's budget will be dedicated to making Highgate's streets safer?

Fourth, traffic calming, speed reduction and enforcement. Signs and temporary mobile enforcement are welcome, but we ask that permanent speed cameras and speed bumps are assessed and appropriately implemented; and we ask for the speed data from the recent study to be published.

Fifth, a comprehensive long-term road safety plan, built with schools, parents and residents. This should follow the publication of the independent safety review, which invites public consultation and feedback. We ask for a named Cabinet Member and Senior Officer accountable for delivery, with regular public progress reports against key milestones; a published strategy showing who is responsible for what across Haringey, Camden, Islington and TfL; clear and regular public communication; and TfL action on improved bus routes and timetables, particularly the 214 and 603 buses, which may potentially take a significant number of cars off these roads each day.

I ask for a response to each of these five points directly, along with specific assurance the recommended findings will be implemented, moving off the planning pages and into real life delivery.

The Highgate community is ready to help, and we look forward to monitoring progress.

Thank you.