



# Public misled over park junction plan

By Chief Reporter  
**GREG TRUSCOTT**

THE *South London Press* can reveal how a council has misled the public in a desperate bid to push through a controversial road junction plan that will see parkland lost to speed-up traffic.

Labour-run Lambeth council has met with major local opposition over its contentious plan to slice more than 1,000 square metres of green space from the entrance of Brockwell Park in Herne Hill to create a road to reduce congestion at the notorious bottleneck.

Opponents also fear a £3.5million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) earmarked for major park improvements could be put in jeopardy by the scheme.

In October last year we revealed how the council had been warned by an HLF representative that the proposed "land take" from the park could see the multimillion-pound



**BOTTLENECK: Above and top, the chaotic road junction at the centre of a council redesign and park 'land take' row**

funding pledge cancelled.

But in public planning documents councillors will study on Wednesday to determine the application, the council claims: "The Heritage Lottery Fund has stated categorically the park bid is not affected by the proposal."

But we can reveal the HLF has made no such assurance to Lambeth council.

The *South London Press* contacted it this week and asked if

the council statement regarding its funding for the park was correct.

An HLF spokeswoman said: "No." The spokeswoman added that the HLF did not comment on "live" funding bids but said there was "no question of the HLF automatically withdrawing funds for Brockwell Park because of the proposed works at Herne Hill".

But the diplomatically worded comment falls far short of the

categorical assurance the council claims to have been given.

The *South London Press* has also learnt the HLF has contacted the council on a number of occasions urging them to look again at its road plans and come up with a scheme that restricts the "land take" from the park.

Last night a Lambeth spokesman said: "There has been no intention to mislead."

"But we will be seeking clarification from the HLF of their precise position ahead of the planning meeting, and if any further clarification needs to be made to the committee this will be done on the evening."

The planning committee will decide the application on Wednesday in Room 8 of Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton, from 7pm.

● **On Tuesday, we will reveal how an alternative Transport for London plan that does not involve slicing as much land from the park does exist - but has been dismissed by the council.**

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