



LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND
RESPONSES**

15 MARCH 2013

1. From Mr Kevin Thomas (Haslemere)

Several residents of Courts Hill Road (CHR) West are severely impacted by the implementation of a Residents Only Parking Scheme (ROPS) in CHR. These houses notionally have off street parking, but in reality for various reasons (primarily very steep or narrow driveways) they need to be able to park on road daily (in particular houses 26-34). These houses had previously (December 2011) had agreement with County Councillor Renshaw to be provided with additional ROPS permits (totalling nine permits in addition to Haughton House) when Pay & Display was proposed. The officers have also confirmed that they would be recommending that the permit allocations be relaxed in Phase 2.

The previous agreement was highlighted to officers during the consultation period in November 2012. We presume, however, that as the officers were not recommending to proceed with the scheme for CHR in their report to the Committee in January 2013, this relaxation was not discussed in the report or by the Committee (i.e. a pure administrative/procedural oversight).

With 17 ROPS bays in CHR West there will clearly be no concern about people with restricted parking not being able to get access to bays

Will the Committee therefore agree to direct the officers either:

1. To implement the previous permit allocation scheme agreed with Mr Renshaw

or

2. To remove permit allocation limits for CHR West in line with the proposals that were advertised for other roads with "ample off-street parking" such as Beech Road.

Response

Having listened to representations from some Courts Hill Road (CHR) residents at its meeting on the 24 January 2013 the Local Committee agreed to implement resident parking proposals in the western part of CHR.

The Committee agreed that proposals should be implemented 'as advertised', but understands that some properties have very steep driveways that cannot be used in some circumstances.

Following their introduction it is planned to review the operation of the residents' parking schemes as part of 'Phase 2'. This will provide the opportunity to formally agree any changes to residents' permit allocation. The parking manager has agreed to meet residents with steep driveways in Courts Hill Road to discuss their difficulties to see if there is a short term solution.

2. From Mr Paul Megson (Haslemere)

I refer to my question tabled in advance of the Local Committee meeting of 24 January – to which I look forward to receiving an answer in the not-too-distant future – and would like assurances that the Committee will ensure an even-handed approach to the consultation processes adopted in the Phase 2 review of street parking in Haslemere later this year.

Referring to the statutory notice advertised in the Haslemere herald, dated 18 October 2012, and the consultation conducted in the ensuing 28 days, I note that the only invitation to comment was expressed as follows, in verbatim quote:

13. If you wish to object to the proposed Orders you must send the grounds for your objection in writing to the undersigned by 16 November 2012 quoting reference 11732/14180/WAV/AK. Details of the proposed changes can be viewed on the Council's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/parking/Waverley.

At no point in the Notice was an invitation extended to write in support of the proposals, in whole or in part. This is not how consultation in a statutory process would be managed in other areas, for example in planning applications for new residential or commercial development, where Waverley Borough Council explicitly also invites submissions in support.

I would therefore like to be assured that the Committee will give equal prominence to an invitation to support proposals as it gives to its invitation to object, whether that be through the medium of the Statutory Notice or through a non-statutory consultation process conducted in advance. Further, while I await the full response to my earlier question, I have received some helpful information from officers concerning the process applied to analyse consultation responses to the Phase 1 ROP proposals, which indicates among other things that: comments from "residents' associations" or civic societies citing their 400 (or whatever) members are only counted as one comment unless the number is substantiated by identification of the several persons on whose behalf they claim to speak, in other words a proper signed petition, and; all efforts are made to eliminate any attempts to duplicate responses and have them counted more than once.

I would therefore like to be assured that the Committee will be vigilant to guard against such lobbyist contrivances when considering consultation responses in Phase 2, otherwise all competing parties in the process may start to play the same game.

Response

In deciding often difficult and controversial changes to the way the public highway is used, the Local Committee considers and responds to many public consultations.

The statutory procedure for advertising Traffic Regulation Orders stipulates that Local Authorities only seek objections during statutory consultation, although letters of support can also provide a more balanced view and help the decision making process.

The Committee does and will continue to take into account objections and comments from all sources, weighing up their relevance to any proposed scheme.

A response to Mr Megson's previous Committee question has been provided, and it is not planned to carry out any further analysis of the consultation responses.

3. From Mr David Kirkham (Farncombe)

In the Annex 1 of the Highways Programme 2012-13 Update Report for the 14 December 2013 meeting of the Local Committee it is reported that a preliminary layout has been received from Atkins for the Marshall Road cycleway at Jewsons, Godalming.

The Terms of Reference for the Waverley Cycle Forum include providing comment on highway schemes to both County and Borough Councils. In order for this to happen would it be possible to let the Cycle Forum see the plans for the Marshall Road Scheme ?

Response

Highways officers would be pleased meet with Cycle Forum representatives to run through the preliminary plans and will make contact to agree a date.

4. From Mr Ian Sutch (Haslemere)

I am a resident of Beech Road, Haslemere and I am writing to you regarding the planning proposals for Beech Road there were put forward at the Local Committee meeting on 24 January 2013. As you may recall the proposals were rejected. I would like to take this opportunity to put forward a request for an Exception Order to be granted for Beech Road. The reasons for this request are set out below.

Our common sense proposal was based primarily on protecting the interests of Hospital users, who use Beech Road to park their vehicles on, and residents, to continue to use Beech Road to park on, whilst at the same time restricting any displacement of daily commuters from surrounding roads once those roads have double yellow lines put in place. Our proposal has the full support of every resident of Beech Road in addition to the full support of the League of Friends who represent the interests of the Hospital.

As you may know, our proposals incorporated a time limited controlled zone achieved by way of having a "Permit Holders Only" curfew for 180 minutes between 11:30 and 14:00 on weekdays only. We would like to take this opportunity to revise this period to 60 minutes from 13:00 weekdays only, at the request of the League of Friends. We would also like to include within this proposal the provision of two parking spaces reserved solely for users of the Haslemere Acupuncture Centre located at the Five Elements in Beech Road.

Our original proposal also included double yellow lines at the junction of each entrance to Beech Road and also at the junction to the Hospital where there are Health and Safety concerns to both through traffic (in particular the ambulance crews) and also residents at that end of Beech Road, whose access to the road from their driveways is prohibited by parked cars which obstruct their sight lines. This continues to be a problem that could ultimately cause a serious accident at some point in the future if a solution is not put in place.

In summary, our proposal is a well considered and balanced one given the circumstances. It serves to protect the interests of both the residents, the Acupuncture Centre and the Hospital, which is very important to us and the community of Haslemere as a whole. We have the full support of all the residents of Beech Road and the full support of the Hospital. I would therefore ask you to consider this proposal for exception.

Response

The advertised proposals in Beech Road were supported by residents of the road and (with some minor modifications) the Haslemere Hospital League of Friends.

However, there were numerous objections to the advertised proposals in this road during the statutory consultation on the grounds that it would be more difficult for visitors and patients to access the hospital.

As such the Committee agreed not to go ahead with any proposals in Beech Road and it is not possible for the Committee to make an 'exception order'. There will be further opportunity to consider any changes to parking in Beech Road as part of future Waverley parking reviews.

5. From Mr Graeme Spratley (Haslemere)

I am sure that I can speak for most residents of the Haslemere Residents Only Parking phase 1 area in expressing our gratitude to the committee in approving the parking and road safety schemes for the many streets blighted by inconsiderate commuter and other non-residential parking in the town. Our schemes were approved in the meeting on the 24th January at the Haslemere Hall, a meeting that was organised with great democratic fairness taking into account the views of both sides of the argument. However, since that happy day, we have heard nothing and I would like to ask the Committee what is the process and time frame for putting the Phase 1 scheme into operation. Furthermore, during the period leading up to Phase 2, which will affect us in respect of our request to have the evening restriction time extended from 17.30 – 19.00, will disproportionate attention be paid to the views of unelected and unrepresentative pressure groups that have no connection at all with the streets and roads in question ?

Response

It is planned to implement the residents' parking schemes in Haslemere during the early summer of 2013. The Council will write to eligible residents in March, setting out the timetable and process by which they can obtain permits.

Guildford Borough Council (who will administer and enforce the permit schemes) will write to residents again in May setting out the permit application process.

Following implementation, the effectiveness of the schemes will be reviewed, and any changes considered necessary included in the 'Phase 2' review.

Objections can be made to advertised proposals by any person or organisation. The Committee then considers the relevance and significance of all objections before making a decision.

6. From Dr A Le Clézio, Frith Hill Residents' Association, Godalming

Since the early January closure of Charterhouse Road in Godalming for gas main works there has been a much heavier traffic flow in the surrounding area as many drivers have ignored the official diversions and used Deanery Road/Frith Hill Road instead. This has resulted in much greater damage to several areas of already deformed road surfaces, particularly in Frith Hill Road. Our recollection is that this road was last resurfaced in the 1990s.

Our question is: what plans there are to resurface this road once the gas main works are completed and traffic flows revert to normal ?

Response

At agenda Item 11 the Local Committee is asked to approve the re-surfacing programme for the next five years, which includes Frith Hill in the first year, 2013/14.

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