



**Surrey County Council
Local Committee In Epsom & Ewell
24 September 2012**

PETITION 1:

Traffic Congestion in Blenheim Road Epsom

Received from Christine Merritt, containing 13 Signatures from local businesses.

The key concerns are:

- Congestion caused by vehicles waiting to enter the Community Recycling Centre;
- Cars driving the wrong side of the road to access premises on Blenheim Road;
- Customers / delivery vehicles having to wait 45 mins to access premises on Blenheim Road;
- Entrances to estate businesses are blocked making it difficult to exit premises on Blenheim Road;
- HGVs using premises to turn around having found they cannot access Roy Richmond Way from Blenheim Road;
- Deliveries not being made due to vehicle delays in Blenheim Road;
- Some HGVs having to reverse along Blenheim Road in heavy traffic due to the barrier preventing access to Roy Richmond Way.

Officer Response:

1. An experimental road closure was implemented in June 2010 at the entrance to Community Recycling Centre in Blenheim Road. In March 2011 the experimental order was made permanent.

ANALYSIS

2. There have been increased numbers of residents using the Community Recycling Centre in Blenheim Road. In the main, this has been due to the temporary closure of the Leatherhead site for redevelopment. However the unusual weather pattern this year also resulted in an unusually busy period during June. A new larger facility will reopen at Leatherhead in November after which demand for the Blenheim site will decrease.

3. The arrangements at the centre have been improved by the changes to the access system, with HGV access from Roy Richmond Way and household access from Felstead Road and Blenheim Road. Previously vehicles queued in Blenheim Road and on to Longmead Road causing severe congestion.

OPTIONS

4. There are existing direction signs on Longmead Road which indicate the correct entrances for commercial vehicles (HGVs) and household waste vehicles. However vehicles entering Longmead Road from Hook Road may not see the first sign if they turn right into Blenheim Road at the roundabout. An additional direction sign will be

provided at the junction of Longmead Road and Blenheim Road to help direct vehicles straight on along Longmead Road to then pick up the correct entrance points for the Recycling Centre.

5. There are existing no-through-road (cul de sac) signs at the junction with Felstead Road and Blenheim Road. These signs will be replaced with larger signs showing the no-through-road symbol. In addition a worded sign (black letters on a yellow background) will read "No HGV access to Roy Richmond Way". This should deter any HGV drivers from trying to access Longmead Road by using Roy Richmond Way.

6. Keep Clear road markings could be introduced across the entrances to premises on Blenheim Road which are blocked when the centre is particularly busy. This should address the problem of access and egress from businesses on Blenheim Road. It is not proposed to introduce these in the first instance, but rather to wait until the Leatherhead site re-opens in November and reassess the situation.

7. It has been suggested that parking is restricted on the eastern side of Blenheim Road between Felstead road and the entrance to the recycling centre. At present there is space for parked cars on one side, queuing vehicles on the opposite side and vehicles leaving the recycling centre in the middle. Restricting parking will impact on local businesses as most of the parking is staff / workers on the Longmead Business Park. The cars would therefore have to find an alternative parking place causing problems in areas that do not currently have a parking issue.

8. It is therefore recommended that the waiting restrictions are not altered in any way, and that no new restrictions are introduced.

9. The barrier which was installed when the new arrangement was put in place consists of red and white plastic barriers. There is a large gap to the left hand side of the barriers to allow a HGV that inadvertently enters Blenheim Road and gets stuck to get around the closure point. The barriers themselves are very easy to move so HGVs should not have to reverse along the section of Blenheim Road to Felstead Road. Although we cannot erect a sign to indicate this, it is clear that a large vehicle could manoeuvre around the red and white barriers if they found themselves in that position.

10. Officers from the council's waste management team have been working with the site operator, SITA to implement measures to reduce queuing outside the site. For example the site has been opened an hour earlier at weekends and staff have been asked to direct residents to use all available parking spaces on the site so they are able to get in and out of the site as quickly as possible. When the Leatherhead site reopens in November, a large banner will be erected on the Epsom site to encourage residents to use Leatherhead site as an alternative.

11. A site visit was proposed and a date is currently being arranged to meet with Local Members, representatives of the Recycling Centre, the local businesses, and Highway Officers to see if there is anything else that could be done to help all stakeholders.