

Surrey County Council Local Committee (Guildford) 22 September 2011

Petitions [Item 4]

Principal petitioner/ organisation	Birinder Agora, on behalf of 52 signatories
SCC Division / GBC Ward	Guildford South East / Holy Trinity
Summary of concerns and requests	<p>Being a resident of (Dene Rd / Denmark Rd / Eastgate Gardens, Guildford), I would strongly urge the authorisation of an extension to the controlled hours for residents parking on these roads prior to the opening of the new G-Live and Guildford Hotel.</p> <p>We, the residents of the above roads, have patiently suffered a great deal of inconvenience since the start of the new G-Live facility and Guildford Hotel construction for almost two years now, including but not limited to noise, heavy vibration, dust (and permanently filthy vehicles as a result), and a never ending stream of heavy goods vehicles coming down a road that was wholly inappropriate to use as a through road for the works vehicles. This is not just restricted to the new Civic Hall but also applies to the construction of the Guildford Hotel, which has not been without issue. As the construction now nears completion and the venue and hotel prepare for opening, we are now likely to suffer further and ongoing major frustrations and inconvenience with respect to residents parking.</p> <p>When the venue opens, visitors to the new G-Live (and the new Guildford Hotel) will undoubtedly be looking for a convenient and FREE place to park in order to attend the venue or hotel rather than using any of the paid car parks. Therefore, the first place people will look to park will be Dene Rd, followed by Denmark Rd or Eastgate Gardens. Resident spaces will then be occupied from 6pm until such time as the event is over, making it impossible for local residents to park on their return. This will quite often follow with visitors going into town to dine and then the subsequent noise with car doors slamming till late into the night or early hours of the morning, which we believe will contravene the noise regulations in a residential area. Many of the residents of these roads have lived here for many years and speak from experience, as this was exactly what used to happen when the old Civic Hall was operational. This will happen again, only on a considerably greater scale this time as the venue itself is much larger and, as a multi-purpose venue, it will be used on many more days and evenings than the old Civic Hall, on top of which we also have the new hotel to take into account, which will only worsen the situation further.</p>

	<p>There are more than enough car parks for shoppers to park in Guildford, and venue visitors should be parking in the venue facilities provided (in this respect, road signs to assist visiting motorists are non-existent and need to be put in place). Such visitors should not be disrupting the peaceful lives of residents. As the people closest to the two new venues, we have borne the brunt of the inconvenience and it is only right and proper that our views are now taken into serious consideration and that the changes requested are granted. Please rest assured that this issue will not rest until it has been resolved to the satisfaction of the local people affected, and we will campaign as necessary to achieve the goal and to ensure that this is not just brushed under the carpet.</p> <p>There can be no solid or rational reason why this change cannot be implemented, and we the residents directly affected by this issue deserve to have this one small thing agreed to, having patiently endured two major construction projects and (being the people closest to both these new and substantial venues), the people who will be most and continuously inconvenienced once the doors open, whether it be day, evening or night, event or conference or hotel guests.</p> <p>As a bonus to the council, this request will also serve to provide additional revenue in the form of parking charges, as the visitors will be forced to park in paid spaces, which is only right and proper.</p>
Response	Officers advise that the response to this petition is contained within the report to be found at item 6 of the agenda.

Written public questions [Item 5a]

None submitted

Written members' questions [Item 5b]

Question from Guildford Borough Councillor James Palmer (Shalford Ward)

In relation to the B3000 between the A3 and A3100, is the Local Transportation Manager aware that:

- a) there was another serious accident resulting in personal injury involving an HGV in the village of Compton (on 1 August 2011);
- b) in places the road is too narrow for two HGVs to pass without mounting the pavement or without difficulty;
- c) in the period 2003-2009, according to Surrey County Council figures obtained by Compton Parish Council, 81 people were injured in accidents on this stretch of road; and
- d) Signs on the southbound carriageway of the A3 direct traffic, including HGVs, travelling to Godalming through Compton and Peasmarsh?

In light of the above points, will the County Council please:

- (i) consider an HGV ban on this section of road or,
- (ii) ask the Highways Agency (who have referred to current signs as an anomaly) to change the signage on the A3 so that traffic bound for Godalming is directed along the equidistant and more suitable route of the A3100 from Milford?"

Answer

a) Yes, the local highway office is aware of the incident and has discussed this matter with Surrey Police. The initial investigation by Surrey Police suggests the cyclists lost control after being passed by a HGV.

b) Narrow roads are not uncommon in rural areas and villages across Surrey, and in some respects helps to regulate traffic speeds, especially that of HGV's.

c) Not wishing to comment regarding the data, period or method of extraction of the information, there is a need for numbers quoted to be put in context. Firstly, the data does not include recent years and from comments made it applies to section of B3000 from the A3 to A3100 which is approximately 3 miles (4.8 kilometres) in length. Secondly, the causation factors for the injuries quoted are considered and finally no indication of type of vehicles involved and circumstances of these incidents.

Notwithstanding this, considering the Personal Injury Accidents (PIA's) for the length of built-up area of the village, which is just over 1/2 mile in length, for the same period (2003- 2009) there were 8 accidents recorded by the police, an average of 1.15 per annum. Of these accidents, only one incident involved a Heavy Goods Vehicle and remainder were cars. During the most recent 3 year period, 1/08/2008 to 31/07/2011, there have been 4 incidents in the built-up area, none of which involved Heavy Goods Vehicles.

d) There is a sign prior to the slip road only indicates Farnham & Godalming and the separation section signs indicating Farnham, Godalming, Puttenham & Compton. These signs are the responsibility of Highways Agency (HA).

i) The B3000 is a very important local distributed route which is used to reach local communities such a Compton, Binscombe, Shalford, Godalming and other villages and communities. The issue of banning HGV's on this road and many similar roads in Guildford and for that matter Surrey are received on regular basis. This issue has been considered on many occasion and officers have not supported such a restriction due to importance of the route to local communities and economy of the area as whole, while appreciating the local concerns of Compton residents.

ii) This matter has been raised by SCC in the past, and have informed the HA of our support in relation to any proposals which they may decide to put forward in respect of the changes to the signing. HA have not responded to past requests, and officers will take this up with them again.