

PIXHAM LANE EXPERIMENTAL CLOSURE

**MOLE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE
23 JULY 2003**

KEY ISSUE:

Further to the experimental closure being implemented in Pixham Lane, Dorking, Members are asked to consider alternative working arrangements to the Traffic Regulation Order.

SUMMARY:

Correspondence received from members of public have shown strong opinions both for and against the experimental closure as it exists presently. The majority have expressed opposition to the closure, many citing the difficulties they have experienced during the morning and evening peak times. In addition, testimony has been given of the negative impact the closure has had on other areas, within the District, as a result of drivers seeking alternative routes. Reports from local traders have also indicated a downturn in business is apparent since the closure was installed. A summary of the comments received to date are included in this report. Various options are discussed setting out how the experiment may be continued. Members are asked to give consideration to each of the options available and decide on the way forward.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to agree:

- (i) that, subject to funding being made available; to resolving any safety audit concerns and to agreement of Surrey Police, authorisation be given to advertise an amendment to the traffic order that permits the passage of all vehicles through the point of closure at peak times, as detailed in paragraph 4.6 of this report.**

- (ii) that, if deemed appropriate, authorisation be given to advertise a right turn ban from Pixham Lane into Reigate Road.**

1.0 INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1.1 For many years residents of the Pixham Lane area have complained of the high level of traffic using the Lane as a cut through between the A25, Reigate Road and the A24, London Road. Many perceived there to be a problem with vehicles travelling at excessive speed resulting in a high potential for accidents.
- 1.2 In July 2001 it was agreed that a consultation exercise would be carried out with all residents and businesses of the Pixham Lane area and would include an exhibition outlining the options that may be available and circulation of a questionnaire requesting views.
- 1.3 The majority of respondents to the questionnaire were in favour of a point closure at the junction with Reigate Road that would allow the passage of buses, cyclists and emergency vehicles but prevent drivers of private vehicles from using the Lane as a through road.
- 1.4 A report was produced by Stilwell Bell Consultants documenting existing traffic conditions and forecasting the likely effects of a closure. Following consideration of the results of the consultation and the Stilwell Bell report, in July 2001 the Mole Valley Partnership Area Transport Committee approved advertisement of a traffic order necessary to implement an experimental closure of Pixham Lane. In April 2002 it was resolved that if at any time the scheme is deemed intolerable then delegated powers be given to the Local Transportation Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Local Members, to take the decision to abandon the scheme
- 1.5 Since effecting the works and up until the end of June 2003, in excess of two hundred items of correspondence have been received by the Local Transportation Service. In addition, the Dorking Advertiser has invited comment from local people and have received a very robust response. Complainants testify that there have been increased delays on the eastern and southern approaches to Deepdene Roundabout during the morning peak and on the northern and eastern approaches during the evening peak. In addition, it has been reported that drivers are seeking alternative routes through out-lying villages to the detriment of the environment and public safety.
- 1.6 The Local Transportation Service believes this to be an appropriate time to review progress of the experiment and decide whether it should be amended, revoked or left unchanged pending future review.

2.0 ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

- 2.1 **Annexe A** is a list of the comments that have been received from members of the public, together with each person's link with the scheme (e.g. a resident of the Pixham Lane area, a local driver or a commuter). Personal details have been omitted to protect the identity of individuals. A copy of this document, which includes all details supplied of each individual and should be treated as confidential, will be made available to Members only, at this Committee meeting.
- 2.2 In summary, the grounds upon which the majority oppose the closure include:
- (i) increased journey times
 - (i) wasted fuel
 - (iii) increased pollution
 - (iv) a perceived increase in the potential for accidents at Deepdene Roundabout
 - (v) encouragement of drivers to use alternative, unsuitable routes
 - (vi) encouragement of drivers to speed along Pixham Lane because it is relatively traffic free
 - (vii) encouragement of drivers to break the law when the bollard control system has failed
 - (viii) increased risk of accident and environmental damage caused by drivers using alternative, inappropriate routes.
- 2.3 Those supporting the measures give reasons that include:
- (i) Pixham Lane has become much quieter and enjoyable to live in
 - (ii) we should all be considering the environment and not hand Surrey over to the car
 - (iii) the closure has addressed the problems of speeding and road safety in Pixham Lane
- 2.4 A plan of the area immediately surrounding Pixham Lane, which gives a graphic representation of where those expressing views live or work and whether they are for or against the continued closure of the Lane, will be made available at this meeting.
- 2.5 Approximately 85% of those who have contacted the Local Transportation Service are opposed to the closure. Notably over half of those commenting who live or work within the Pixham Lane area express opposition to the closure. Particular objection has been raised from the proprietors of a nursing home within the area together with management and employees of a major service provider. The main points of objection from these establishments are given as increased attendance times for emergency services and visitors as well as increased journey times for employees travelling during peak times.

- 2.6 Nearly all who have objected claim a congestion problem exists during the morning and evening peak periods. Some have said that travelling via Deepdene Roundabout has added as much as half an hour to both their morning and evening journey. Others have stated that journey times have increased 3 or 4 fold. However, as a consensus of the views expressed, those travelling via Deepdene Roundabout or seeking alternative routes, have added 10 minutes to both morning and evening journeys.
- 2.7 Comment has also been received that there has been a marked increase in vehicles travelling through outlying villages such as Brockham, Headley, Westhumble and Box Hill. This has raised concerns that narrow country lanes are being used inappropriately, leading to a perception of an increased risk of accident.
- 2.8 Many of those objecting argue that increased congestion wastes fuel at a cost to the individual and the environment.
- 2.9 Some members of the business community have complained of a loss of business since the closure and have expressed the opinion that increased congestion has deterred customers from using Dorking. Others, with operations that rely upon use of the local road network, have testified to increased delays and costs. The consensus of opinion of those who have contacted the Local Transportation Service is that the measures are damaging trade.
- 2.10 The majority of those who have contacted the Local Transportation service to support the measures live within the Pixham Lane area. They share the view that the measures are justified by the improved environment within the Lane and reduced risk of accidents. They contend that the longer journeys they sometimes need to make are a small price to pay for the benefits the scheme brings. Others, including people who live outside the area, recognise the long-term strategy of the scheme and the need to encourage use of alternative forms of transport. They applaud the Council for making a bold and innovative decision that addresses the trend of ever increasing car use.

3.0 SURVEYS

- 3.1 Surveys carried out by the Local Transportation Service have found there have been significant increases in queuing times on the approaches to Deepdene Roundabout at peak periods during the early stages of the experiment. Queue lengths are dependent upon outside influences and may vary from day to day and the time of day but, it has been found that in general, queuing times have increased by between 6 and 12 minutes. This may not be reflected in the queue lengths but with Pixham Lane unavailable, queues are moving more slowly.

3.2 **Annexe B** is a plan of average queue lengths assessed from data collected on the approaches to Deepdene Roundabout at random times and dates during peak hours, since the closure was imposed. The information is shown against records taken from the Stilwell Bell report of the queue lengths that existed prior to the closure and those predicted following implementation.

4.0 **OPTIONS**

4.1 Given the above information it is considered appropriate to give further thought to the scheme implemented. There are three options that may be considered:

- (i) Do nothing
- (ii) Remove the closure and return the road to normal two way operation
- (iii) Open the closure at peak times only

4.2 **Option (i) Do nothing.**

Just a few days after work to install the bollards began, an accident on the M25 led to the long-term closure of the inside lane of the clockwise carriageway. It has been seen in the past that disruption of the motorway can result in added congestion to the road network around Dorking and it is uncertain what impact the lane closure is having on the Pixham Lane experiment. The latest information from the Highways Agency is that all lanes of the motorway will be open to traffic by the end July and, following this, there would be a fairer opportunity to monitor the experiment.

4.3 As discussed, there has been strong public opposition to the closure and a positive decision to continue with the experiment, unchanged, may exasperate the many who have campaigned for its removal.

4.4 **Option (ii) Remove the closure.**

Removal of the closure at this time may be seen as having given the experiment insufficient time to demonstrate its long-term impact particularly in view of the situation on the M25. In addition, it would disappoint many of the residents of Pixham Lane who have strived for years to have a solution found to the traffic problems they have faced. Having recognised that a traffic problem has existed in the Lane, it may be deemed incumbent upon the Council to re-address the problem with, for example, traffic calming. Physical removal of the measures would also necessitate considerable engineering works. Abandonment of the experiment at this time may also serve to damage the Council's strategic aims of directing traffic onto appropriate roads, promoting alternative forms of transport and making our roads safer.

4.5 Removal would satisfy the wishes of the majority of respondents who have voiced opinion of the closure though this number represents a minority of all those who will have been affected by the closure. Many who have complained about the closure have expressed their belief that the additional traffic using Deepdene Roundabout and speeding through outlying villages has led to increased accidents and damage to minor roads. Though these concerns are understood, there is no hard data available at this time to support this assertion. A study is presently in progress to examine congestion throughout Dorking and suggest means of improvement. Particular attention is to be paid to Deepdene Roundabout and it is entirely possible that measures to improve capacity at that junction may be implemented within the next three years. As the primary subject of complaint about the experiment has been the inability of Deepdene Roundabout to cope with the increased volume of traffic at peak times, it may be premature to remove the closure when it may later complement likely improvements.

4.6 **Option (iii) Open the closure at peak times only.**

Observations on site have shown that, whilst queues develop on the approaches to Deepdene Roundabout during the morning and evening peak periods, during the day there are few delays. If the closure were to be lifted in the morning and evenings it would ease demand on the roundabout, thus reducing queuing times and the temptation for drivers to seek alternative, inappropriate routes.

4.7 Though, in the past there have been high volumes of traffic at peak times, the issue of speeding has been most apparent when the road is quiet and empty. The calming measures that have existed for many years at the railway bridge and to the north, are, to some extent, self policing and may be considered adequate. If the closure were to be operated at off peak times weekdays and at all times during the weekend, it may prove a suitable compromise between the needs of the travelling public and the concerns of residents. It may, however, prove to be appropriate to include within this option a right turn ban from Pixham Lane into Reigate Road.

4.8 With the means of closure retained, it would allow further review of the closure at a later date during the experimental period or at a time when improvements to Deepdene Roundabout would justify further amendment. This option may also be seen as addressing the concerns of respondents, yet providing benefit from the resources that have already been committed.

4.9 Operation of the part time closure may be undertaken manually in the first instance and, if successful, the feasibility of an automated system may be investigated longer term. Manual resetting of the system to provide part time operation would impose significant maintenance costs and substantial capital outlay would be needed to provide an automated arrangement.

However, if initial opening times were to be 07.30-09.30 and 16.00-18.30 it may be possible to dovetail with the arrangements already in place for the daytime closure of Leatherhead High Street.

- 4.10 There are two practical disadvantages. The first would be the potential for confusion/frustration of drivers who enter Pixham Lane from the A24 just before the end of the open period to be faced with a closed road when they reach the far end. If operated manually, it may be possible to overcome this issue by the temporary placement of a sign warning of imminent closure at an appropriate point. If automated, the cost of a link would prove very expensive. The second disadvantage would be the necessity to impose a priority arrangement at the point of closure due to the narrow road width created when the measures were installed. So close to the junction, this may lead to problems with safety audit.

5.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 In the case of options (ii) or (iii) it will be necessary to send a letter to all within the original consultation area explaining what the new proposals are. A statutory consultation would also need to take place and, as part of the process, consultation with the emergency services is necessary.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Option (i)

At present there are three ways to operate the bollards. By transponder (as fitted to buses on regular routes), by tapping a code into a keypad (for use by the emergency services) or by removing the padlocks on the power feeder bollard and turning off the power (intended for use by the fire service in the event of a major incident). When operated via transponder, the system will lower the bollards and raise them again once the bus has passed. If the keypad is used the bollards will lower and remain in the lowered position until the system is re-set by a technician. This configuration has been pre-set by the manufacturer to avoid accidents in the event of multiple emergency vehicles following one another through. If the closure is to remain in place it is intended to instruct the manufacturer to re-configure the system so that the bollards return to the raised position after the keypad has been used. A software upgrade will be needed to achieve this at an approximate cost of **£800.00**. Though the option to leave the closure unchanged will require the least expenditure, the software upgrade is now thought necessary.

- 6.2 If the road is to be fully re-opened to traffic it will be necessary to remove the bollard system and kerb build-outs and change local road signs as well as revoke the existing Traffic Regulation Order. The estimated cost of these works is **£15,000.00**. In addition, if it is accepted that Pixham Lane deserves measures to address the concerns of residents, further costs would be incurred making alternative provision. Depending upon the

design, a traffic calming scheme for this road would typically cost between £50,000.00 and £100,000.00.

6.3 Option (iii)

If the closure is to be operated part time, capital costs to carry out consultations, alter/make new Traffic Regulation Orders, amend signs and impose priority working will be between £15-20,000.00. Maintenance costs to carry out this manually are estimated to be £30,000.00 per annum though this may be reduced if it can be dovetailed with the daily closure of Leatherhead High Street. By the time this option could be put in place the total amount of funding required for the remainder of the current financial year would be **£30,000.00**. If, at a later date, the part time closure were to become automated, capital costs would be in the region of £25,000.00.

7.0 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The closure is in keeping with the Council's aims of sustainable development. If revoked it may be viewed as abandonment of this key strategy.

8.0 CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 With the present configuration there has been significant miss-use of the keypad code leading to prolonged periods when the bollards are in the lowered position. This has tempted drivers to pass through the point of closure at the risk of prosecution.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The existing design incorporates provision for the disabled. None of the options discussed will be to the disadvantage of any particular user group.

CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The infrastructure provided by the resources committed so far enable safe operation of the suggested amendment to the experimental traffic order. There has been strong objection to the closure as it exists now though the overwhelming majority of those opposing the scheme cite the morning and evening peak periods as the problem. The opportunity exists to develop the experiment, appease many of the objectors yet retain much of the benefit valued by residents of Pixham Lane.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Previous Committee Papers

Version No. Date: Time: Initials: No of annexes:

PIXHAM LANE ANNEXE A

Public Comments Opposed to Closure

Situation unknown

Contact via E-mail

Date 13/2/03

Outline of comments General objection to scheme

Situation unknown

Contact via E-mail

Date 19/2/03

Outline of comments Objection to scheme. How many accidents. How will it be judged. Effectively a private road. Residents were aware of the traffic when they purchased their houses.

Resident outside district

Contact via E-mail

Date 20/2/03

Outline of comments Opposes closure. Not a rat run but public highway. Crazy idea, will make existing congestion even worse. Alternatives should be considered.

Resident within district

Contact via Visit to Council offices

Date 21/2/03

Outline of comments Unacceptable though sympathy with residents concerns. Effectively the road will become private. Will move the problem of congestion elsewhere.

Situation unknown

Contact via County website

Date 3/3/03

Outline of comments Closure has made congestion worse. Should be kept open south bound. Has benefited the few at great cost to the many.

Resident within district

Contact via Telephone call

Date 5/3/03

Outline of comments Has led to unacceptable congestion on A24 and A25. Work excessive for experimental scheme. No previous speeding problem in Pixham Lane. Objects to closure. Infringement on his rights to use the public highway. Deepdene ped lights adding to the problem.

Situation unknown

Contact via Telephone call

Date 5/3/03

Outline of comments Traffic back to Burford Bridge yesterday. Not happy with scheme. Wants Members names.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 6/3/03

Outline of comments The scheme is a net loss for the travelling public. Took 35 minutes to get through traffic on 3/3. Will cut through Headley in future. Get rid of scheme.

Situation unknown

Contact via Telephone call

Date 6/3/03

Outline of comments Public highway and should not be closed. Residents are selfish. No previous speeding problem. Has led to increased traffic in other local roads. Home journey time has increased by 45 minutes. Morning queue A25 west extends to Franks sandpit @ 07.40.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 26/3/03

Outline of comments Queuing from all directions for miles. Has generated more traffic over Cotmandene. Totally opposed to ridiculous closure.

Local resident

Contact via Visit to Council offices

Date 7/3/03

Outline of comments Strongly objects to closure and traffic build up it is causing. Should have no right turn Pixham into A25 only. Hopes closure will be reviewed in the near future.

Resident within district

Contact via Telephone call

Date 7/3/03

Outline of comments Closure has caused congestion and prolonged his daughter's journey to station and school. As a driver he is not affected by the closure. Believes not enough thought was given to the impact of the closure.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 10/2/03

Outline of comments Protests against proposals. Prevents short cut from A25 to A24. Prior to closure, copes with peak time traffic. Presently no alternative to car as public transport is unreliable. Congestion costs money and this makes it worse. Not all road users consulted.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 7/3/03

Outline of comments Residents have been selfish, inconsiderate and small minded. Users of the A25/24 were not consulted. Should be tested under human rights law. Causing severe delays. Both wife and daughter were 20 mins late for work/school. Delays suffered by school bus. Totally opposed to draconian action.

Local residents association representative

Contact via Letter to Friends Provident cc to Surrey CC

Date 4/3/03

Outline of comments Complaint to Friends Provident regarding the increase in their employees using Lincoln Road following the closure of Pixham Lane.

Resident outside district

Contact via Letter

Date 6/3/03

Outline of comments Waste of money. Journey time increased from 30 mins to 1-2 hours. Jams at 8 am are ridiculous. Delays cost money and damage environment. Urges reconsideration.

Local nursing home proprietor

Contact via Letter

Date 5/3/03

Outline of comments Their 35 residents were never consulted. Closure has added 1.5 miles to the journey of every member of staff - 2 shifts = 6 extra mile per day. Low pay, can ill afford. Extra time for GP to attend - crucial in an emergency. Requests closure be reversed without delay.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 16/3/03

Outline of comments Closure is not part of an overall traffic plan. Vehicles cutting through Brockham, parked cars, children etc. Wrong to close the road without anticipating consequences. Traffic levels on A25 now dangerous. Delays caused to buses - have used car instead. All residents should be treated equally.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 17/3/03

Outline of comments What is to be done about the traffic congestion caused by Pixham Lane closure. What consultation was carried out. Council tax increase is minor compared with the additional cost in time and money of travelling. Similar case for closing Punchbowl Lane.

Local business person

Contact via Letter

Date 17/3/03

Outline of comments Closure has caused huge queues every day 8am to 1pm. Journey time between Betchworth and Deepdene Roundabouts 20-40mins. Experiment should be re-assessed.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 14/3/03

Outline of comments Protests against closure. Additional traffic unacceptable. Not aware of accidents in Pixham Lane, alternatives should be considered. Hopes we reconsider.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 4/3/03

Outline of comments Extra 10 mins to travel 5 miles. Sympathy with residents but extra traffic is encouraging drivers to seek alternative routes. How many more roads are to be cut off. Traffic has made Middle Street intolerable. Should I drive through adjacent villages to avoid congestion on main road.

Business person within district.

Contact via Letter to MVDC copied to Surrey CC

Date 12/3/03

Outline of comments Congestion creates difficulties operating a distribution business. Pixham Lane has had a significant impact on increasing traffic.

Local employee

Contact via E-mail

Date 20/3/03

Outline of comments Complains about closure. Has added 20 mins to morning journey. What impact is this having on local businesses. Lives on busy road but accepts high traffic levels. Traffic is using other local roads.

Local employee

Contact via E-mail

Date 20/3/03

Outline of comments Closure has coincided with increased traffic on A25. Journey time 10-20 mins Betchworth to Deepdene Roundabouts. What studies were carried out in advance. Hopes we will reverse this ill-considered experiment.

Local employee

Contact via E-mail

Date 20/3/03

Outline of comments Objects to closure. Travels from Reigate to Dorking and closure has meant an extra half hour journey time along A25. Now uses alternative routes along country lanes. Resident bought property in Pixham Lane knowing it was a cut through and this was reflected in the price. The chaos caused is a disgrace. The sooner it comes to an end the better.

Local employee

Contact via E-mail

Date 20/3/03

Outline of comments Complains, with colleagues, most strongly against the closure. Takes almost an hour to travel from Reigate to Dorking encouraging use of alternative routes. Though experiment is for 18 months, it has taken just 1 month to see the devastating effect of closure. Asks we reconsider.

Local employee

Contact via E-mail

Date 21/3/03

Outline of comments Objects strongly, the closure has brought chaos to surrounding roads. Dorking cannot handle the traffic, queues back up half way to Reigate in the morning. Brockham and Punchbowl Lane now receiving extra traffic. The closure is an unaffordable luxury. Suggests traffic calming as an alternative.

Local employee

Contact via E-mail

Date 21/3/03

Outline of comments Closure is causing mayhem in the area. Has had to change route to work.

Resident outside district

Contact via Letter

Date 24/3/03

Outline of comments Asks if other roads can expect similar treatment. Pixham has served to bleed traffic from A25 to A24. Congestion is likely to have safety implications. Has found Pixham to be quiet, does it have an accident history. Questions cost in time, cost benefit analysis, traffic flow data, ulterior motive, cost benefit to residents, arrangements in the event of a local incident.

Resident outside district

Contact via Letter

Date 24/3/03

Outline of comments Experiment has caused gridlock, pollution and chaos. Queues going back to Buckland start at 7 am. Will dissuade people from visiting Dorking.

Resident within closure

Contact via Letter

Date 17/3/03

Outline of comments Suggests closure will not please all residents of Pixham Lane. Questions legality of closure. Cites increased congestion on main road. Suggests traffic calming as an alternative.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 16/3/03

Outline of comments Do we have the permission of the Minister of Transport to close the road. Traffic in his road is on a par with Pixham. Why does information board not display road number. Closure disadvantages motor-cycling which should be encouraged.

Local employee

Contact via E-mail

Date 24/3/03

Outline of comments Congestion has increased since the closure of Pixham Lane. In the evenings it can take 30 mins to drive from Biwater House to Deepdene Roundabout. What surveys were carried out in advance.

Local employee

Contact via E-mail

Date 18/3/03

Outline of comments Complains about closure which is causing unacceptable delays.

Resident within district

Contact via E-mail

Date 22/3/03

Outline of comments Disgusted with Closure, what were we thinking of. Has added 30 mins to journey from Leatherhead to Dorking. How were a small number of residents able to have their road closed.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 11/3/03

Outline of comments Strongly objects to closure. Has increased congestion locally. Rat running through Brockham. Why not traffic calming. Ill considered.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 7/3/03

Outline of comments Questions legality of closure. We must all accept there are more cars on the road. This road must remain open.

Local employee

Contact via memorandum

Date 9/3/03

Outline of comments Following closure has encountered problems with congestion. Late for work twice. Has added 30-40 mins to morning journey.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 12/3/03

Outline of comments Journey time into Dorking in the morning has increased by 15 to 20 mins. Questions whether the following was considered in advance: traffic study on main roads, traffic increases over Box Hill, traffic increases on local roads such as Punchbowl and the possible increase in accidents, an experimental closure by other means, accident record in Pixham, 24 hour survey. Will costs be met by residents. Criteria for road closure. Copy of Committee minutes.

Resident outside district

Contact via Letter

Date 26/3/03

Outline of comments Frustrated by closure, has added 15 minutes to morning journey. Why are residents of Pixham privileged. Questions the wisdom of working in Dorking. Suggests traffic calming as an alternative. Questions the results of the consultation.

Dorking Town Centre Forum

Contact via Memo

Date 17/3/03

Outline of comments Staff arriving late for work. Unhappy with closure. A25/A24 traffic delays at junction. Pedestrian Association offered congratulations on closure.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 11/3/03

Outline of comments Questions reasons for closure. Who gave permission. Waste of rate payers money.

Resident outside district

Contact via Letter

Date 24/3/03

Outline of comments Though a one year experiment, the results are now obvious. Journey from Reigate takes twice as long. Drivers taking to back lanes.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 23/3/03

Outline of comments Against closure, does not benefit residents living at the top end of Pixham Lane. Suggests closure at railway bridge. Drivers not adhering to speed limits since implementation of closure.

Local employee

Contact via E-mail

Date 26/3/03

Outline of comments Nightmare traffic immediately following closure. Additional 1.5 miles per journey is costing time and money. Employees and shoppers may consider going elsewhere.

Resident outside district

Contact via Letter

Date 1/4/03

Outline of comments Employee of Friends Provident. Expresses objection. 16 mile journey takes 33% longer. Seeking alternative routes through inappropriate roads. Residents' pleasure causing much pain. Hopes sense will prevail.

Situation unknown

Contact via Letter

Date 1/4/03

Outline of comments Clear closure is a mistake. Tailbacks on main roads and additional traffic on other local roads. Has cost a large amount of Council taxpayers money. The Council has made a mistake.

Situation unknown

Contact via Letter

Date 29/3/03

Outline of comments Decision to close road was narrow minded and short sighted. Many other roads have similar problems. Money wasted that could have been used to carry out much needed repairs.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 29/3/03

Outline of comments Closure has led to increased traffic through Westhumble. A24 at a standstill. Embankment outside their property is being eroded by extra traffic.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 27/3/03

Outline of comments Intolerable traffic in their road since closure, causing damage. Bringing chaos to the area. Deterring people from using Dorking.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 27/3/03

Outline of comments Objects to closure. Residents of Pixham chose to live in a busy road. No perceived speeding problem. Why not more consultation. Impact not thought through. Should be reviewed within 6 months.

Local resident

Contact via Visit to Council offices

Date 2/4/03

Outline of comments Strongly objects to closure and increase of traffic on other roads.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 2/4/03

Outline of comments Strong opposition to continued closure. Motorists and taxpayers have a right to use the road.

Local employee

Contact via Letter

Date 3/4/03

Outline of comments Employee of Friends Provident. Believes writing to be a waste of time. 10 mile journey time varies from 45 mins to 1 hr 35 mins- totally unacceptable. Extra fuel costs. Closure was a waste of money.

Local employee

Contact via Letter

Date 4/4/03

Outline of comments Closure has led to increased traffic at Deepdene Roundabout and delays for staff travelling to work.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 5/4/03

Outline of comments Closure causing stress, aggravation and pollution. Journey time tripled. Denbies roundabout proving lethal. Angry at lack of information since consultation. Life made a misery.

Local business person

Contact via Letter

Date 31/3/03

Outline of comments Closure extending journey times to visit patients at nursing home. Unacceptable in the case of an emergency. Requests road is re-opened.

Local business person

Contact via E-mail

Date 28/3/03

Outline of comments Extra half hour to morning and evening journeys. Visitors to the company arriving late.

Local employee

Contact via E-mail

Date 27/3/03

Outline of comments Expresses concern over closure. Journey time increased by 30 mins.

Local employee

Contact via E-mail

Date 25/3/03

Outline of comments Dismay at decision to close road. Tail backs on main road unbelievable. Closure is out of order.

Local; business person

Contact via E-mail

Date 3/4/03

Outline of comments Closure has caused disruption to his business. Has made traffic problems in Dorking a great deal worse.

Business person within district

Contact via Letter

Date 4/4/03

Outline of comments Customers complaining about closure. How can a road be closed just because it suits some people. Hopes closure is not permanent.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 1/4/03

Outline of comments Very annoyed. Road closed without public consultation. Why Pixham lane. Why not closed at peak times only. What alternatives considered. Why no traffic census. Lengthy queues on A24 and A25. Decision was a blunder. Money could have been better used.

Situation unknown

Contact via Letter

Date 8/4/03

Outline of comments Closure has caused congestion at Deepdene Roundabout. Council tax should be used for better purposes.

Resident outside district

Contact via Letter

Date received 9/4/03

Outline of comments Objects to closure. Adds 10 minutes to journey into Dorking.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 1/4/03

Outline of comments Disastrous decision. Ridiculous. Has increased congestion.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 2/4/03

Outline of comments Complains about the atrocious problems caused by closure. Not aware of previous accidents. Firmly opposes the closure.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 10/4/03

Outline of comments How can road be legally closed. Why are Pixham residents privileged.

Resident within district

Contact via Visit to Council offices

Date 15/4/03

Outline of comments Disapproves of closure. 10 minutes added to journey into Dorking.

Resident outside district

Contact via Letter
Date 31/3/03
Outline of comments Disagrees with closure. 10 minutes added to journey into Dorking. Results already clear, remove closure without delay.

Resident within district
Contact via Letter
Date Undated
Outline of comments Protests strongly to the closure. Wrong to close public highway. Only locals consulted.

Resident within district
Contact via Letter
Date 2/4/03
Outline of comments Unreasonable to close Pixham at detriment of all. Suggests urgent review.

Resident within district
Contact via Letter
Date 7/4/03
Outline of comments Protest at closure. Never heard of any accident. Adds enormously to journey time. Would like Station Road, Betchworth to be closed.

Resident within district
Contact via Letter
Date 13/4/03
Outline of comments Protests about closure. Beyond comprehension. Rat running through local villages. Hopes Council will reconsider.

Resident within district
Contact via Letter
Date 16/4/03
Outline of comments Closure has directed traffic onto inappropriate roads. Brockham now a rat run.

Local resident
Contact via Letter
Date received 18/4/03
Outline of comments Strong objection to closure. Inconvenience, waste of funds, delay emergency services.

Resident within district
Contact via Letter
Date 15/4/03
Outline of comments Strongly objects to closure.

Resident within district
Contact via Letter
Date 11/4/03

Outline of comments Disapproves of closure. Urges re-opening and proper survey.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 26/4/03

Outline of comments Never noticed evidence of heavy traffic in Pixham Lane. Very inconvenient. Hopes experiment will be cancelled shortly.

Local employee

Contact via Letter

Date 16/4/03

Outline of comments Opposed to experiment. Has added 30 mins and 10 miles to and from Horley. Urges reconsideration

Local taxi operator

Contact via Telephone

Date 29/4/03

Outline of comments Journeys to and from the station are taking longer and costing passengers more.

Local employee

Contact via E-mail

Date 28/4/03

Outline of comments Astonished at incompetence of highways agency. Major delays. 5-10 mins added to journey each day.

Resident outside district

Contact via Telephone

Date 8/5/03

Outline of comments Half hour added to journey into Dorking. Cuts through outlying villages. Concerned about negative impact on local business.

Local employee

Contact via Letter

Date 10/5/03

Outline of comments Friends Provident employee. Travels 14 miles to work. Was taking 35-40 mins now doubled. Has tried route via Box Hill. Impinges upon freedom of choice.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 25/4/03

Outline of comments Poor decision, should be rescinded asap. Consultation inadequate. Pixham Lane never dangerous, roundabout more hazardous. Waste of money. Re-open asap.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 11/4/03

Outline of comments Strong objection to closure. Confined to electric buggy. Residents speed along road since closure. Visiting nurse held in traffic. Re-open asap.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 9/4/03

Outline of comments Strong objection to closure. Hopes it will re-open straight away. Traffic calming is the answer. Encounters delays at the weekend when collecting elderly people to take to church..

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 8/5/03

Outline of comments Strong objection. Delayed entering Dorking since closure. Son's school bus frequently delayed, now must take earlier bus. Believes there was no consultation. Ha increased the risk of accident elsewhere.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 10/5/03

Outline of comments Objects to closure. Used to "rat run" through Pixham Lane, now caught in queues. Why is Pixham Lane special. Will other busy roads be closed?

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 8/5/03

Outline of comments Strongly objects to closure. Has resulted in traffic build up and delays. Has turned Old School Road into a rat run, will this be closed? Poorly considered. Remedy needed without delay.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 9/5/03

Outline of comments Opposed to closure. Dramatic detrimental effect on traffic into Dorking. 5 minute journey now takes 20 mins. Decision to close was undemocratic. Many other, more deserving roads.

Local business person

Contact via Letter

Date 9/5/03

Outline of comments Travels from Brockham to Wimbledon. Used to take 40-45 mins, now 1½-2 hours. Many minor road incidents where he lives as a consequence. Trust Council will come to its senses.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 5/5/03

Outline of comments Adds voice to list of dissenters to scheme. Scheme favours the few over the many. Questions the right of the Council to close the road. Ridiculous that cars should keep to main roads only. Hopes the closure will not be permanent.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 7/5/03

Outline of comments Had she known about the closure she would not have moved to the area. Suggests property prices in Pixham will fall. Resents the delays caused. Suggests access through barrier for residents. Difficult accessing the A24 at 5 Denbies Roundabout.

Resident outside district

Contact via Letter

Date 7/5/03

Outline of comments Joins protest against closure. Adds up to 1 hour to journey into Dorking each morning. Extra traffic will effect local trade. Will further local roads be closed? Questions whether road is now private and if decision makers ever commute into Dorking.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 5/5/03

Outline of comments Closure has produced unexpected chaos on A25 into Dorking during peak times. New crossings at Deepdene Roundabout have aggravated the problem. Urges the Highways Department to re-consider.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 5/5/03

Outline of comments Objects to scheme, totally wrong, possibly illegal and not justified. Outrageous that this slip road be closed. Traffic flows at Deepdene Roundabout already aggravated by badly sited traffic lights. Travel times seriously increased. Decision should be reversed asap.

Betchworth Parish Council Representative

Contact via Letter

Date 29/4/03

Outline of comments Closure raised concerns at Council meeting. Increased journey times are altering peoples route to work. Suggests SCC monitor the effect displaced traffic is having.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 29/4/03

Outline of comments Concerned parent. Having trouble dropping off daughter at Brockham School and getting to work on time. Average 20 minutes from Brockham to Dorking. Suggests assessment of traffic flow. Sympathises with Pixham residents but a nightmare for drivers.

Local driver

Contact via Letter

Date 8/5/03

Outline of comments Outrageous and undemocratic for the road to be closed. Would support traffic calming. Residents of Downside Home not offered separate votes. Detrimental effect on traffic flows along A24 and A25 has impacted on road users and surrounding environment. Has isolated Downside Nursing Home.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 30/4/03

Outline of comments Strongly objects to closure. Has added 20 mins and 3 miles to journey. Traffic now cutting through Punchbowl Lane. Such a drastic measure is ridiculous.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 30/4/03

Outline of comments Protests strongly against closure. Appalling congestion has forced traffic to travel via Brockham. Council's responsibility to ensure traffic flows freely and money spent to the benefit of all. Closure has led to chaos and urges it be re-opened.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 1/5/03

Outline of comments Suggests traffic lights at the top of Pixham Lane would have been better.

Resident of district

Contact via Letter

Date 26/4/03

Outline of comments Thinks there has been much exaggeration about the traffic levels there were in Pixham lane. Has always kept to the speed limit when using the road. Pixham residents have had the "right" person to press their case.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 24/4/03

Outline of comments Protests against closure and lack of consideration for Downsvale Nursing Home. Workers, professionals and visitors have a longer journey to attend. Believes visitors to the Home should have passes for the closure.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 28/4/03

Outline of comments Complain about closure. Suggests closure is radical. Cites a street in Wandsworth that has been traffic calmed.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date Undated

Outline of comments Totally opposed to closure. Works at Friends Provident. Requires explanation why journeys are now taking 30 minutes longer. Has never seen any accidents in Pixham Lane. Urges road be re-opened.

Local employee

Contact via Letter

Date Undated

Outline of comments Totally opposed to closure. Works at Friends Provident. Has added 10-15 minutes to journey. Has never seen any accidents and it was almost impossible to speed along Pixham Lane prior to closure. Strongly wishes the Lane is re-opened quickly.

Local employee

Contact via Letter

Date 30/4/03

Outline of comments Has worked at Friends Provident for 37 years and always used Pixham lane. Now takes 20 mins longer to get to work. Has tried using back lanes but feels these are unsuitable. Suggests Friends Prov staff have access through closure. .

Local employee

Contact via Letter

Date Undated

Outline of comments Has worked at Friends Provident for 10 years. Opposed to closure as it adds 30 mins each day to journeys. No evidence of accidents or speeding in the Lane. Feels someone influential has made the decision regardless of the effect on the local area. Should be reversed asap.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 19/5/03

Outline of comments Since the closure the A24 at Givond Grove has been much busier. Journey time to Dorking 35-50 mins during peak period though reasonable at other times. Questions how closure was implemented without predicting impact. There are many rat runs in Surrey, many with a worse safety record.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 22/5/03

Outline of comments Adds voice to protest against Pixham Lane. Evening queues A24 south bound back to Burford Bridge. Causing delays, pollution, driver frustration and cars speeding down cycle track alongside the road. The experiment is unjustified and has failed. Reopen immediately.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 21/5/03

Outline of comments Road should be re-opened as soon as possible. Has lived in Pixham Lane for 40 years. Is dropped off and collected by friends and their journeys have been made worse.

Resident within district

Contact via e-mail

Date 2/5/03

Outline of comments Closure has caused unprecedented chaos to roads around Dorking. Suggests traffic calming as alternative. Closure is absurd and has clogged arteries. Should plan with the whole community in mind.

Local employee

Contact via e-mail

Date 1/5/03

Outline of comments Against closure. Journey from Reigate to Dorking used to take 25 mins. Now takes 45 mins to 1 hour. Long walk to station does not make using the train an option. Intolerable, extra pollution, waste of resources and not acceptable. Rat run not a legitimate reason for closure.

Comments received from members of a local company.

Contact via memo

Date undated

Outline of comments Please keep it open. Essential route from south of Dorking to Reigate.

Has created enormous traffic problem. Why was it done and what was the justification. My rights have been diminished. Time to sack the Council.

Queues from Reigate into Dorking add 25 mins to journey. Impacts on roads leading onto A25.

Formally a 15-20 min journey now takes 40 mins. All back routes are considerably congested. Ridiculous and unjustified environmental decision.

Situation unknown

Contact via e-mail

Date 21/3/03

Outline of comments Will use Box Hill to get to work instead of A25.

Local business person

Contact via e-mail

Date 2/6/03

Outline of comments Closure has increased journey times into Dorking. There have been many missed appointments by customers.

Lincoln Road residents association

Contact via Letter

Date 30/5/03

Outline of comments Formal objection on behalf of Association. Appreciates the effect of through traffic but closure has caused disproportional detriment to residents of Lincoln Road and much of Dorking. Existing calming measures were adequate. Has increased use of Lincoln Road which can become impassable. Emergency access sometimes impossible. Review should include knock on problems. If permanent, requests Lincoln be closed to through traffic.

Local business person

Contact via Letter

Date 2/5/03

Outline of comments Journey to work now takes at least 10 mins longer. Employees fed up with the queues leaving and returning to Dorking. Has heard from others that they now shop in Reigate instead of Dorking. Why single out Pixham. Why not traffic calming. Was there political favouritism. If permanent, will consider move to Reigate.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 12/5/03

Outline of comments Objects to closure. Resident of Dorking and father of resident of Downsvale Nursing Home. Son also opposed to scheme. Journey to visit more stressful and takes longer. Vehicles now travel faster along Pixham and accidents seem more likely. Traffic delays will deter visitors to Dorking. Hopes common sense will prevail and the road re-opens.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 13/5/03

Outline of comments Opposed to closure. Travels from Brockham to Mickleham. Used to take 15 mins now 45 if travelling via Dorking. Now goes via Box Hill. Runs a nursery and may have to change opening times. Madness that a compromise could not be found. The closure is bizarre. Hopes that the mistake is admitted.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 14/5/03

Outline of comments Wishes he had never bought a house in Pixham. Extra 20 mins journey time during rush hour. Supports calming measures. Considers his rights have been affected.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 11/5/03

Outline of comments Closure unacceptable. Has taken to using back lanes to get to Dorking. A25 west bound morning queue often back to Brockham.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 16/5/03

Outline of comments Complains about closure. A25 west bound morning queue starts at Brockham. A24 south bound evening queue starts at Burford Bridge. Not helped by new lights at roundabout. No alternatives to driving. Would not be against the closure if there were alternative arrangements in place.

Local employee

Contact via Letter

Date 22/5/03

Outline of comments Works at Friends Provident and has used Pixham to get to work. Now takes 20 mins to travel to work and 15 mins to get home to Brockham. Exacerbated by the new crossings at Deepdene Roundabout. Asks how much longer the experiment will last, how much it has all cost and is it legal to close the road.

Resident outside county

Contact via e-mail

Date 2/6/03

Outline of comments Travels from Kent to Dorking and often delayed at Deepdene since closure. Extra 15 mins on journey. Suggests traffic calming as an alternative.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 22/5/03

Outline of comments Closure extremely inconvenient.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 28/5/03

Outline of comments Causing traffic chaos on A25 and A24. Waste of council tax. Most of his neighbours are against the closure. Believes emergency vehicles have no access.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 12/5/03

Outline of comments Adds his name to the list against closure. Why are Pixham residents special. Has added 15 mins to his journey to Leatherhead.

Local business person

Contact via e-mail

Date 1/6/03

Outline of comments Recently took over vet practice. Customers having difficulty accessing due to traffic. Takes 30 mins to travel in from Brockham.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 4/6/03

Outline of comments Took 35 mins to drive from Burford Bridge to Deepdene Roundabout and very angry. "Stupidity" and "madness".

Local business person

Contact via Letter

Date 3/6/03

Outline of comments Impossible to move cars in and out of the garage at peak times since the closure began. Disrupting business. Lincoln Road too small to cope with traffic from 3 large businesses. An emergency vehicle would not be able to get through. Urges reconsideration.

Local business person

Contact via Letter

Date 2/6/03

Outline of comments Worked in Dorking for 10 years and visited the town for 40 years. Business throughput down on last year, partly caused by traffic. Problem exacerbated by M25 lane closure, signals at Deepdene Roundabout and closure of Pixham Lane. Suggests review of closure.

Local business person

Contact via Letter

Date 4/6/03

Outline of comments Traffic has been terrible since closure. Hopes it will come to an end soon. Queues deterring shoppers.

Local business person

Contact via Letter

Date Received 6/6/03

Outline of comments Has two businesses in the town. Some customers have been lost or seen less often as they try to avoid queues. Retail turnover down by 3.6%. Local delivery trips taking 30% longer. Deliveries arriving later which will result in a downturn of trade. Can take an extra 15 mins to get home in the evening. Hopes closure will be reversed.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 6/6/03

Outline of comments Suggests peak time opening of Pixham. An accident at Deepdene Roundabout would bring Dorking traffic to a standstill. Solution needed before winter conditions return.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 5/6/03

Outline of comments Solution will only be found through legal action (presumably against the Council). Asks questions regarding legality of closure, costs etc.

Local charity shop

Contact via Letter

Date 6/6/03

Outline of comments Understands the wishes of local residents of Pixham. The closure has made increasing congestion on the A25 even worse.

Local business person

Contact via Letter

Date 5/6/03

Outline of comments Has a shop in Dorking High Street. Losing over £100 per day due to lack of passing trade since closure. Customers and deliveries battle through traffic to get to shop. A disgrace. Please re-consider.

Resident within district

Contact via e-mail

Date 10/6/03

Outline of comments Travels from Holmwood to Leatherhead and back. Noticed immediate change in traffic when Pixham closed. Has spent an extra 20 mins on homeward journey. Annoying. Waste of public money. Damage to environment.

Situation unknown

Contact via e-mail

Date 11/6/03

Outline of comments One evening spent 45 mins travelling from Mickleham bends to Holmwood Roundabout. Waste of petrol. Emergency services delayed. Experiment a total failure. Think again after upgrading Deepdene Roundabout. The closure has dumped the problem on others.

Local business person

Contact via e-mail

Date 13/6/03

Outline of comments Runs a furniture and interior design business in Dorking. Disruption to business since closure. Relative who childminds has suffered delays of up to 30 mins travelling into Dorking. An evening journey from Ashstead to Dorking recently took 50 mins. Has to be a better way of handling Dorking traffic.

Local employee

Contact via e-mail

Date 20/6/03

Outline of comments Appreciates needs of Pixham residents but closure has increased traffic at Deepdene and surrounding roads. Residents aware of problem when they moved in. Suggests traffic calming as an alternative.

Local employee

Contact via e-mail

Date 20/6/03

Outline of comments Registers complaint about closure. Would like to know why it has been closed and why the money has been wasted. Never seen any accidents in Pixham. Many residents of Pixham speed down the road. Now

travels via Box Hill. A24 congested back to Burford Bridge. Extends working day by 2 hours. Sympathises with residents of Lincoln Road.

Resident outside district

Contact via e-mail

Date 19/6/03

Outline of comments Does not believe she should contribute to the upkeep of what is now a private road. Endures pollution and high levels of traffic. Very stressful. Suggests traffic calming. Re-open immediately.

Local employee

Contact via e-mail

Date 20/6/03

Outline of comments Please reconsider decision to close Pixham. Traffic dreadful, enough to make blood boil. Lives in hope.

Resident outside district.

Contact via e-mail

Date 20/6/03

Outline of comments Takes between 15 and 30 mins longer to travel in since closure. Unfair on road users. Would like to see it re-opened immediately.

Local employee

Contact via e-mail

Date 20/6/03

Outline of comments Objects to closure. Traffic sometimes back to Betchworth on A25. Now travels via Punchbowl Lane. Unfair on residents of A24 and Lincoln Road. Will residents of Mole Valley get a refund because the road can no longer be used.

Local employee

Contact via e-mail

Date 20/6/03

Outline of comments Questions intention and success of closure. Negative impact. Advance surveys limited. Concerned for residents of Pixham and the delays they face. Quotes statistics of survey and makes case that majority did not vote for closure. Delays at Deepdene. Concerned that undue influence used by Council Member living in Pixham. Hopes scheme will discontinue.

Local employee

Contact via e-mail

Date 20/6/03

Outline of comments Lives in Surbiton. Not too affected by closure but difficult exiting onto A24 when it is at a standstill. Concerned about reliability of automated bollards.

Local employee

Contact via e-mail

Date 23/6/03

Outline of comments Uses childcare arrangements close to office. Drive home now takes 20-30 mins longer. Subsequently considering moving children to a different nursery. Impact on local business. Dismayed at Council's attitude.

Local employee

Contact via e-mail

Date 23/6/03

Outline of comments Extra traffic on A24 has added a good 10 mins to journey time. Aggressive driving leading to accidents. Dangerous for drivers and pedestrians. Pixham was never busy or dangerous. Residents of Pixham should not have bought houses there if they thought it too busy. Tax payer's money should not be wasted on pointless schemes.

Local employee

Contact via e-mail

Date 24/6/03

Outline of comments Journey time increased by 10 mins each way. More petrol more pollution. Now accesses the office via Lincoln Road which has led to complaints. Not thoroughly thought through. Suggests traffic calming. Hopes Council will reconsider.

Resident outside district

Contact via e-mail

Date 23/6/03

Outline of comments Experiment has failed. Virtual private road for Pixham residents. Trip to work 15-30 mins longer. Delays A25 west bound am and A24 south bound pm. 10 % additional fuel. Pollution. Evidence to remove closure immediately.

Local employee

Contact via Letter

Date 24/6/03

Outline of comments Closure a debacle. Traffic levels have not reduced since the scheme began. Concerned over reliability of automated bollards. Experiment has been failure. Lets make some grown up decisions and re-open the road.

Local employee

Contact via e-mail

Date 23/6/03

Outline of comments Journey time increased by 10 minutes. Concerned that bollards are often down. Now uses Lincoln Road which is heavily congested. Public transport is expensive, unreliable, indirect and uncomfortable.

Local resident and employee

Contact via e-mail

Date 23/6/03

Outline of comments Believes the closure is the wrong thing. Journey times to Dorking Hospital unpredictable. Difficult turning right into Pixham from A24.

Resident within district

Contact via e-mail

Date 12/6/03

Outline of comments Closure not justified. Suggests one way. Stricter control of traffic lights at Deepdene Roundabout.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 26/6/03

Outline of comments Does not consider there to have been a traffic problem in Pixham Lane. Must contend with more traffic elsewhere now. Was never contacted when survey of residents was carried out. Extremely inconvenient, adds 10-15 mins to journey to work. Total waste of tax payer's money. Angry that residents were given no consideration.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 6/6/03

Outline of comments Big increase in exhaust pollution.

Resident within district

Contact via Letter

Date 17/6/03

Outline of comments Jams from Burford Bridge every time he drives into Dorking. Has occasionally travelled via Westhumble to avoid traffic which must be less safe. Poor, ill thought out and dangerous decision to close Pixham.

Total 162

PIXHAM LANE ANNEXE A

Comments Supporting the Closure

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 20/3/03

Outline of comments The closure is a good thing. It was a dangerous turn right from Pixham onto the A25. Traffic has increased steadily over the years and we need to make our towns quieter and safer.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 25/3/03

Outline of comments Feel that the positive effects have been neglected by respondents to Dorking Advertiser. Acknowledge increased traffic on main roads but feel Pixham is not suitable to carry high volumes of cars. Hope commuters will turn to public transport. Pixham is now safer with fewer speeding cars.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 1/4/03

Outline of comments Expresses appreciation of closure. No screeching tyres. No line of cars following accidents on the main road. No being showered by spray during wet weather. Congratulations to the Council.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 7/4/03

Outline of comments Supports closure. Closure has made Pixham a more pleasant place to live. Hopes noisy campaigners will not force early curtailment of experiment.

Local driver

Contact via Letter

Date 10/4/03

Outline of comments Thanks the Council for closure. Insists it remains.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 14/4/03

Outline of comments Sincere gratitude. Hopes experiment will be permanent.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 1/5/03

Outline of comments Congratulates those who decided to close Pixham Lane. Turning onto the A24 from Westhumble Street now much easier. Well done!

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 2/5/03

Outline of comments Totally in favour of closure. Concerned over unreliability of bollards. Now safe to cross Pixham Lane. Complaints are only from those who use the road as a short cut.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 21/5/03

Outline of comments As a resident of Pixham Lane area writes to tell of enormous benefit the closure has provided. Disturbed by the campaign mounted by the local press. Fast traffic made road hazardous prior to closure. Trusts Local Transport Service will not be influenced by complaints.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 22/5/03

Outline of comments Local paper seems very biased with their letters. Drivers abusive to people trying to come out of the road. Would support speed restrictions if closure is lifted.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 21/5/03

Outline of comments Pixham Lane has become an increasingly dangerous thoroughfare over the years. The improvement is a small price to pay for the inconvenience. The press have had a field day but complainants are those guilty of cutting through without regard for safety. Feels experiment should run full term.

Local driver

Contact via Letter

Date 21/5/03

Outline of comments So pleased that the Lane is safer and quieter. Suggests the additional congestion on A24 and A25 is due to new crossings. Speeds were sometimes 60mph and often 50mph. Please leave it as it is.

Local resident

Contact via e-mail

Date 19/5/03

Outline of comments Thanks Council for the closure. A brave step that shows the Council listens to its residents. Supports continuation of the experiment. Press view one sided. Safer, quieter, less motorcycles and less risk to children. Additional queues are not wholly due to Pixham.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 19/5/03

Outline of comments Support closure. Has removed speeding rat runners, racing motor cycles and HGVs. Despite loss of access, in favour of permanent closure. Ha aided free movement of buses during rush hours. Commercial interests miss-placed.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 14/5/03

Outline of comments Supports closure. Pixham Lane has been transformed into a quiet residential area. Has addressed the issue of ever increasing traffic. Experiment should run full term.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 15/5/03

Outline of comments In favour of the closure being made permanent. The views of those not living in the road are less relevant.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date Received 20/5/03

Outline of comments Better since closure. No longer subjected to abuse and road rage. Hope closure will remain but, if not, would like traffic calming.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 19/5/03

Outline of comments Congratulates the local authority on their decision to close the road. Notes that the majority writing to the local paper complaining do not live in the area.

Local tradesman

Contact via Letter

Date 14/5/03

Outline of comments Congratulates Council on closing the road before there was a fatal accident. Allows an extra five minutes to travel.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 12/5/03

Outline of comments Supports the brave decision to close the road. Hoping to produce a document to help justify the closure and asks relevant questions to obtain detail.

Local business person

Contact via e-mail

Date 2/6/03

Outline of comments Has used A25 2-3 times per day for 25 years. Closure has made very little difference. Case for re-opening has been blown out of proportion.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 28/5/03

Outline of comments Queues on the A25 not as bad as some are stating. Ped crossing at roundabout causing a good many jams. Appreciates not have fast cars and lorries driving pass her house.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 30/5/03

Outline of comments Enjoying peace and relief from thundering cars bikes and lorries. Buses and emergency vehicles have uninterrupted access.

Local business person

Contact via e-mail

Date 4/6/03

Outline of comments Has a business in Dorking. Does not believe the closure is a major factor affecting traffic. The many pedestrian lights are the main problem.

Local resident

Contact via Letter

Date 4/6/03

Outline of comments Supports closure. Pixham very much safer. Additional journey a small price to pay. M25 lane closure compounding the situation. Traffic lights at Deepdene Roundabout adds to congestion.

Local employee

Contact via e-mail

Date 20/6/03

Outline of comments Supports experimental closure. Has noticed many drivers who travelled via Pixham drove too fast. Something we should all support. Not pleased with company position on closure.

Resident within district

Contact via e-mail

Date 23/6/03

Outline of comments Pleads that experiment is not abandoned. Proves that motorists in Surrey do not take precedence over everything else. Drivers must share with others. Closure illustrates what our roads will be like in 5-10 years time.

Total 27