



**ALBION SQUARE CANOPY
ASSOCIATED TRAFFIC ORDERS
LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR WOKING
18 JULY 2005**

KEY ISSUE:

To consider and determine any objections and to make the orders associated with the Albion Square canopy development, Woking.

SUMMARY:

The Committee resolved to advertise the necessary Orders and or Notices associated with the canopy development at its meeting on 6 April 2005. Authority was not delegated to Officers in consultation with the Chairman to consider and determine objections and make the orders. Notices for removal of the existing pelican crossing and raised table were advertised and objections were received.

The Developer undertook to resolve the objections as they were received. However, the objectors did not find any alternate solutions offered acceptable and their fundamental objection to the removal of the pelican crossing remained.

The Developer has confirmed that the pelican crossing will remain part

of the final scheme when this it is implemented latter this year.

The final proposal for the Albion Square canopy, as it affects the public highway, is illustrated by drawings WBCSTN/LCR/Figure1A, Figure 2A and Figure 4C attached.

CONSULTATIONS:

The Statutory consultees via the normal Order/Notice making process.

North West Surrey Association of Disabled People (NWSADP)

Woking Access Group (WAG)

Local Transportation Service - Woking

County and Borough Members

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to agree

- (i) that the Notice advertised under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to remove the existing pelican crossing be cancelled; and**
- (ii) that the existing pelican crossing be retained as shown on drawing WBCSTN/LCR/Figure1A; and**
- (iii) that the raised table be confirmed as shown on drawing WBCSTN/LCR/Figure2A; and**
- (iv) that authority be given to advertise Traffic Regulation Orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, for the amended 'kiss and ride' facility as shown on drawing WBCSTN/LCR/Figure4C, and that authority be delegated to the Acting Local Transportation Director in consultation with the Chairman and Divisional Member to consider and determine any objections and to make the orders.**

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

1. The committee resolved at its meeting on 6 April 2005, to advertise the necessary orders and or notices associated with the Albion Square canopy development to ensure the County Council did not frustrate the building of a scheme which had obtained planning consent.
2. The proposed canopy development forms part of the Borough Council's Woking town centre improvements to create a new entrance to Woking Station and help integrate key nodes with the town centre.
3. The proposal had been the subject of a full detailed planning application, which was granted permission by Woking Borough Council in February 2004.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

Pelican Crossing

4. Objections to the notice advertising the removal of the existing pelican crossing were received from the following:
 - Police
 - North West Surrey Association of Disabled People
 - Woking Access Group
 - 24 individual letters of objection, where the content expressed similar views objecting to the removal of the pelican crossing.
5. The views of the objectors was that to remove the pelican crossing outside the Woking station would endanger most groups of pedestrians seeking to cross High Street and particularly those with a disability whose confidence relies on their control over vehicles given by the pelican.
6. Woking Borough Council's consultant responded to the objections and developed 4 alternate options, 3 without a pelican and 1 with; the one with the pelican also changed the road layout and affected vehicle flow.
7. The alternate solutions were discussed with representatives from NWSADP, WAG and Local Transportation Service – Woking; none was found totally suitable to the situation outside the station and the objectors maintained their objections.
8. Woking Borough Council has accepted the pelican crossing will remain in the final canopy development scheme. Mr Spinks, Executive Director for Woking Borough Council says in his letter dated 29 June 2005, "Taking all the circumstances into account we have decided to retain the pelican crossing and this letter should be taken as confirmation of that intention." Drawing WBCSTN/LCR/Figure1A shows the proposed revised layout.
9. The Notice advertised on 12 May 2005, under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to remove the existing pelican crossing is therefore redundant and should be declared null and void.

Raised Table

10. There has been no objection to the introduction of the raised table in isolation to the removal of the pelican crossing. Comments received did question the logic of providing the raised table to assist pedestrians whilst also removing the pelican crossing.
11. Therefore, it is considered that with the retention of the pelican crossing there are no objections to the raised table, which is a benefit to the proposal.

Kiss and Ride

12. The creation of a limited waiting lay-by as originally envisaged on drawing WBCSTN/LCR/Figure4A to provide a 'kiss and ride' facility is no longer permitted by the regulations. All limited waiting areas are now parking places, which could be occupied other than as originally intended, i.e. loading and unloading of goods.
13. A single yellow line waiting restriction with a morning and evening peak period loading ban could provide a similar 'kiss and ride' facility; setting down and picking up from a single yellow line restriction is a permitted activity. The additional peak period loading restriction should ensure the lay-by is available for such activity during the morning and evening busy periods and provides additional loading space in Chertsey Road during the remainder of the working day.
14. A revised drawing WBCSTN/LCR/Figure4C shows the amended proposed restrictions, which will be advertised subject to the Committee accepting the proposal.

Canopy Proposal

15. The existing pelican crossing is retained in the final proposal (WBCSTN/LCR/Figure1A), albeit widened, which will benefit pedestrian movement outside Woking station. The Notice advertising its removal is therefore cancelled.
16. The raised table is confirmed (WBCSTN/LCR/Figure2A) as no objections were received to the advertised Notice.
17. The 'kiss and ride' facility requires the advertisement of a slightly different Traffic Regulation Order to that approved by the Committee at its meeting on 6 April 2005 (WBCSTN/LCR/Figure4C).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

18. There are no financial implications for the County Council; Woking Borough Council will meet the cost of advertising and making the orders.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

19. The Albion Square canopy development seeks to meet the overall aims and objectives of creating a better town centre environment.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

20. The overall design philosophy for the development should inhibit crime and disorder.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

21. The provision of the raised table and pelican crossing will facilitate a controlled completely at-grade wider crossing for pedestrians to pass between the town centre and Woking station.

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

22. The Committee was obliged to advertise the necessary notices and orders associated with the grant of planning consent by Woking Borough Council for the Albion Square canopy development.
23. The retention of the pelican crossing outside the station has overcome the objections received against the proposal and the original advertised Notice is not required. The raised table can also be confirmed and this will also assist pedestrian movement at his location.
24. With the Committee's consent the revised Traffic Regulation Orders associated with providing the 'kiss and ride' facility can be advertised; the lay-by will during the majority of the working day contribute to additional loading space within Chertsey Road.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: 6 April 2005

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