



LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

PUBLIC QUESTION & RESPONSE

DATE: 16 September 2016

A question has been received from Mr Mark Westcott:

This question is a request for the Waverley Local Committee to consider the removal of all parked cars on both sides of Castle Street, Farnham in the commercial area beneath Long Garden Walk. A recent count on site suggests that it would involve the loss of only 25 spaces.

Such a proposal would make a truly wonderful improvement (at little or no expense) and allow for all sorts of things to happen on the generous cobbled and paved areas, not least the vastly improved visual amenity and the opportunity for community and civic activities throughout the commercial length other than the virtual emasculation and blocking of the broad handsome street by tonnes of permanently parked metal.

Once removed, apart from opening up the views of one of the most handsome of market town set-pieces in the south of England, there would be considerable flexibility for activities such as market stalls (weekly, or even throughout the week and changing as necessary on a themed or weekly/daily basis), café tables, or even dancing troubadours.

It seems extraordinary that the monthly Farnham farmers' market is held in Central Car Park when one of the UK's foremost Georgian avenues lies dormant just metres away.

My question to the committee is this:

Please can you tell me if the Waverley Local Committee might support such a proposal to eliminate the parking spaces as described above and how such an idea might be progressed?

Response:

Castle Street is of course one of Surrey's most visually impressive streets, with lots of history to it. However, it is also located in the centre of what has grown to be one of Surrey's largest and heavily trafficked towns. In response to this, Castle Street has had to adapt and evolve over the years in order to meet with the ever increasing population and its use of cars. This is apparent in the street today; with the mixture of resident permit parking and pay and display parking, which is there to strike a balance between those who have homes in Castle Street and those who just wish to visit the town. With regards to through traffic, Castle Street is also the end of one of the key main road routes into the town centre.

For Castle Street to resemble a more pedestrianised nature, it would not only see the loss of on street parking - which is currently in very high demand by both residents and visitors - but Farnham itself would also lose one of its key routes into the town. Whilst this still may be favoured by some Farnham residents, it is very unlikely that this would be favoured by the majority of Farnham residents and businesses, or by Castle Street residents themselves.