

PUBLIC QUESTION & RESPONSE

ITEM 7



SURREY

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE 27 February 2017

AGENDA ITEM 7

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question from Mr John Cruddas, Esher Green

Proposals submitted by several residents of Esher Green to effect an extension of 'Residents Parking Hours' along Esher Green and especially that area covering house numbers 46-54 have not been addressed in the report under item 12 on the agenda.

Can an explanation be provided as to why this should be so and why they have apparently been rejected without any consultation with the residents concerned? Especially as there would be a delay of another three years before these issues could be raised again, would the Local Committee refer them back to the responsible authority for further consideration with the residents?

Officer's response:

The requests for changes to the parking restrictions near the Wheatsheaf pub were discussed at meetings involving borough and county councillors and officers on 17 January 2017, prior to the finalisation of the report under item 12, and it was agreed not to recommend any changes to the permit bays at this location as part of this parking review.

Although we understand that the increased popularity of the pub and therefore its impact on parking is relatively recent, the pub itself is of course a long standing establishment, and part of the community.

In general, parking on the public highway is available for public use. The permit scheme in Esher Green acts to protect residents from all non-resident parking during the day, space which may otherwise be occupied by commuters for instance. It is not designed to prevent all use by non-residents at all times. As highway authority, we have to manage the interests of different users of the highway, which includes users of local businesses as well as residents. There are many locations where very specific local features (such as schools, pubs, places of worship, village halls etc) may add to increased competition for parking between visitors and local residents, however it is not practicable to eliminate all of these issues, particularly as in trying to do so, vehicles are likely to be displaced into another nearby road.

It is currently the case that all parking within the Esher controlled parking zone operates throughout the same hours. This helps to minimise confusion for motorists, and is in line with government guidance which seeks to make parking controls as simple and uniform as possible, whilst still being effective. This helps motorists' comprehension of parking controls, which therefore improves compliance with the restrictions, and reduces the chances of

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people accidentally parking illegally. Amending the parking controls for this section of Esher Green would remove this uniformity which is undesirable.

At locations such as Esher Green, along with many other locations in Surrey, where demand for on street parking exceeds supply, it is necessary for some compromise to take place in terms of provision of parking for different users.