

INFORMAL PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was preceded by an informal public question time. The matters raised are summarised below. This summary does not form part of the formal minutes of the meeting.

The Chairman explained that responses to questions relating to parking in Haslemere would in most cases be provided at Item 7 on the agenda; outstanding matters would receive a response subsequent to the meeting.

1. **A resident of Shepherds Hill**

The Committee was asked why residents of Shepherds Hill had not been given the opportunity for a residents' only parking scheme when others in a similar situation, having bought their houses with no dedicated parking, had been offered this facility.

2. **A resident of Scotlands Close**

The questioner felt that the roots of the parking problem lay with the extent of commuter parking and the approaches of Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council and that a solution would have to involve all agencies; it was asked whether the rail companies could not contribute to the cost of daily parking for season-ticket holders.

The response provided subsequent to the meeting is: it is intended that partners, including the County Council, will in due course consider potential solutions to the wider parking pressures facing Haslemere as part of Phase 3.

3. **Mrs N Barton, Scotland Lane**

Mrs Barton referred to her invitation to Committee members to visit Haslemere prior to the meeting and thanked Mr Cosser for his attendance. She asked how many members had observed the working of the town and the impact of removing 8-10 free parking spaces on local businesses.

4. **Mr P Megson, Bunch Lane**

Mr Mason spoke, as a cyclist, in support of enforcing the current Traffic Regulation Order to prevent chevron parking. He asked for views on the implementation of the recently published circular on speed limits.

The Local Highway Services Group Manager referred to the County Council's existing policy, published online at:

<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-and-transport-policies-plans-and-consultations/roads-and-transport-policies-and-plans/traffic-policy-and-good-practice/speed-limit-policies-and-good-practice>

Officers are studying the recent circular and the County Council will consider what action may be necessary.

5. **A resident of Lower Street**

The resident asked about ideas for the accommodation of parking on the street.

6. Ms D Keeley, Bunch Lane

Ms Keeley thanked the Committee for listening to residents' concerns and asked if the scheme for Bunch Lane could be implemented as soon as possible.

7. Mr C Ronson

Mr Ronson asked why, in times of recession and austerity, the County Council has chosen to squander resources on an unnecessary zebra crossing and deprive Haslemere of free parking spaces.

8. Mr P Gardner

Referring to the response tabled to his written question (Item 5: question 10) Mr Gardner asked whether the Committee would agree that extending the operating hours of the residents' only parking scheme in Chestnut Avenue from 5.30 to 7.00pm might itself offer a deterrent to non-residents? Mr Gardner also asked the Committee, in considering the free parking spaces in the High Street, to bear in mind the need for businesses to maintain a through-put of customers.

9. Mr J Leake, Lower Street

Mr Leake asked why options other than residents' only parking schemes had not been considered and suggested a one-hour "curfew" scheme as a viable alternative.

10. Ms Á Hall, Hill Road

Ms Hall observed that the Committee had a membership of 18 councillors and that ten were present, and asked where the remaining eight were.

11. Ms J Evans, Haslemere Chamber of Trade

Ms Evans referred to the vulnerability of some businesses in Haslemere and felt that the maximisation of free car-parking in the High Street and in Shepherds Hill through the established echelon parking arrangements would contribute to their continued viability. The current arrangements slow traffic down and in the absence of accident data would the Committee consider the preservation of echelon parking in these locations?

12. Ms V Leake, Lower Street

Why does the report state that the provision of on-street parking in Lower Street and Shepherds Hill would cause displacement of commuters when people already park locally?

13. Mr D Pope, Courts Hill Road (West)

Mr Pope sought confirmation that, in considering the report, the Committee would not give greater weight to the views of lobbying groups than to the specific needs of local residents.

14. Mr P Jones, Petworth Road

In relation to the proposed zebra-crossing and consequent relocation of the bus-stop, Mr Jones asked whether consideration had been given to the speed of approaching

cars and whether the likelihood of the current level of bus services continuing would outweigh the need for the three free parking spaces which are considered vital for local businesses.

The Chairman undertook to seek the views of the County Council's Passenger Transport Team whose response is: "even if bus services were to be reduced in the future, suitable stops in the town centre would still be required, including at this location. It is therefore important that a bus stopping facility is retained as part of this scheme."

15. Mr Russell

Mr Russell asked whether the County Council had considered Park and Ride as an option in Haslemere.

The response provided subsequent to the meeting is that no investigation into Park and Ride in Haslemere has been undertaken.

16. A resident of Courts Hill Road

The question challenged the recommendation not to proceed with residents only parking in Courts Hill Road.

17. Mr R Serman

Mr Serman referred to the proposed zebra-crossing in Petworth Road and the reference to it in the Haslemere Healthcheck. He understood from previous discussions with the County Council that this crossing would not go ahead; he suggested that a crossing adjacent to the Museum should be given greater priority and asked the Committee to reconsider the matter.

18. Mr Bond, Haslemere Methodist Church

Mr Bond could see no justification for the proposed double yellow lines in front of the Methodist Church and hoped that this could be amended to at least allow parking on Sunday.

19. Mr D Round

Mr Round suggested that chevron parking should continue in the High Street and Shepherds Hill and suggested that appropriate lines should be marked to define the spaces.

20. Ms S Checkley

Ms Checkley requested that more consideration be given to providing parking for commuters.

The response provided subsequent to the meeting is: it is intended that partners, including the County Council, will in due course consider potential solutions to the wider parking pressures facing Haslemere as part of Phase 3.

21. Ms M Mateo

Ms Mateo asked what accident data the County Council could produce to support its proposals to prevent echelon parking in the High Street and Shepherds Hill.

22. A resident of Three Gates Lane

The resident expressed disappointment that no reply had been received to the objection submitted to the proposed restrictions in Three Gates Lane for which no reason could be identified.

23. The proprietor of a business in Shepherds Hill

The Committee was asked to consider the view that the main threat to safety in Shepherds Hill is not parking but speeding vehicles and to consider appropriate measures.

The Area Highways Manager undertook to investigate the situation.

24. A resident

The resident felt that, since echelon parking had been an established practice in the High Street over many years, this should have been recorded as such when the orders relating to Civil Parking Enforcement had been made.

25. Mrs C Lancaster, Mayor of Haslemere

Mrs Lancaster suggested that, if the Committee had difficulty making a decision, then it may wish to ask Haslemere Town Council to solve the problems.