

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



SURREY

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

DATE: 05 September 2018
 SUBJECT: Petition title: "request that Leatherhead High Street be open from 3.30pm for parking and access, 4.30pm on market days, for an experimental period of six months, to encourage an increase in footfall"
 DIVISION: Leatherhead and Fetcham East

PETITION DETAILS:

Request that Leatherhead High Street be open from 3.30pm for parking and access, 4.30pm on market days, for an experimental period of six months, to encourage an increase in footfall.

RESPONSE:

The issue of vehicular access to High Street has been the subject of consultation and discussion for some time without any conclusions being reached. The Transform Leatherhead initiative is an opportunity to make long-term decisions on parking and access within the High Street in the context of the overall vision for the town and in the light of other projects taking shape under the Transform Leatherhead banner.

MVDC and SCC acknowledge that the High Street and the existing access arrangements are not easy to resolve. There are many competing issues in the High Street which need to be effectively balanced. The Transform Leatherhead (TL) project team are very sympathetic to the information provided in the petition and the reasons set out for proposing alterations to the existing arrangements.

There are a number of options that could be considered, however, of which the proposal put forward in this petition is one. All the options need to be considered in the light of current modelling of the highway network in the town and a clearer understanding of the economic and environmental impacts of each option. It is suggested that amending the Traffic Regulation Order, even though an Experimental Order, should await this further baseline work. MVDC has commissioned WSP to undertake traffic modelling of Leatherhead Gyratory and the wider highway network to test various options as part of the TL project. This work is due to be completed in December 2018 and it can be used to provide context in which to make any decisions about the High Street in line with the wider TL vision.

The TL team propose to extend the work already being carried out on the Swan Centre by commissioning an economic impact assessment of the High Street. This will cover the baseline conditions, engaging with local businesses and town centre users, reviewing case studies and literature and best practice elsewhere which will be compiled into a qualitative economic impact assessment. Subject to the procurement process we hope to have this information by 2019 to tie into the results of the traffic model and the longer term options work for the Swan Centre.

The TL team, in conjunction with SCC as the Highway Authority, are committed to reviewing the existing TRO which has been in place, unchanged since 2002 (no stopping TRO since 2006) when the baseline information has been collected. The review will also need to consider interrelated, practical issues from safety to on-street car parking and deliveries. We are also committed to undertaking public and stakeholder engagement which is critical before any changes occur to the access arrangements on the High Street.

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In conclusion:

- An Experimental TRO in relation to parking on the High Street cannot be considered at this time
- The TL team are sympathetic to the proposed reasoning within the petition.
- There are several options that will need to be evaluated.
- Decisions need to be based on an understanding of the economic, environmental and traffic impacts, work on which has begun.
- There are a multitude of elements that need to be considered before any changes are carried out; safety, off street charging, stakeholder engagement, Swan Centre regeneration, disability access, servicing and delivery, public realm etc.
- Stakeholder engagement will be undertaken before any changes are carried out to the High Street operating arrangements.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the officer's comments.

Contact Officer:

Stacey Capewell- Transport Strategy Project Manager Joint Post SCC and MVDC.