



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN EPSOM & EWELL
10 December 2018**

MEMBER QUESTIONS

**Question 1: Cllr Michael Arthur
Re: Bus Stand High Street East**

Despite being informally informed that this is no longer a Bus Stand and alternative arrangements made, it is road marked as such (twice) and busses are standing over.

I receive regular complaints of the impedance to traffic caused by buses standing especially at peak times and the consequent traffic tailback. This has been an issue for several years and currently continues.

On 4th December around 09.45 to 10.10 I observed in succession 480/460/480 on stand, in two cases the drivers left their vehicle, locked the bus, and went away presumably for a refreshment break. At one point there were two busses concurrently on stand. The period of being "bus stand free" could be measured in seconds. Effectively, it was that as one bus departed another one drew up. Additionally, after allowing passengers to board, the bus continues to wait for several minutes before departing.

I believe that this is an entirely inappropriate location for a bus to wait any longer than required for the sequence of discharging passengers and immediately allow boarding just like any normal bus stop.

Could the Officers consider my comments to ameliorate the situation?

Officer Response:

Prior to the works commencing in the town centre bus service 318 did use bus stop K in the High Street. The timetable for service 318 was revised in August 2017 and this service now uses bus stop F located in Waterloo Road.

As part of the town centre works local bus services 460/480 were re-routed to operate into Epsom via Ashley Road/ Treadwell Road/Downs Road/Church Street and temporarily terminate and pick up passengers at stop K in the High Street. Buses then depart from this stop and operate out of Epsom via Ashley Road. This is a temporary arrangement that has been set up to assist in keeping the town centre traffic moving by reducing traffic in the High Street (W) while works are ongoing. This has helped bus services retain their punctuality for passengers while also assisting in reducing the traffic around South Street to allow other Bus Operators to maintain their services as best as operationally possible. Works in the High Street (W) are scheduled to continue during 2019, as such the current 460/480 routing and standing arrangements will remain as currently operated.

From a town centre operational viewpoint, it is of the utmost importance that the town centre traffic is kept flowing as best and safe as practicable whilst the works take place. We want

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to encourage people to continue using this form of transport rather than driving to / through the town centre and adding to the volume of traffic.

I would like to provide reassurance that SCC's Scheme Delivery team and Passenger Transport team are fully engaged with the bus operators to constantly review the performance of buses whilst the works take place and finding ways to balance the needs of bus operators & passengers against general traffic and other operational requirements.

Once all the town centre Highway and public realm works have been completed and new traffic patterns established, a review of the current bus stand arrangements will be undertaken to seek the most acceptable locations to minimise disruption to the town centre. Until then temporary bus stand locations will be required.