

Tabled Item

Urgent Written Public Question – Mole Valley Local Committee – 17 June 2020

Question submitted by Mike Taylor:

Can you ensure the High Street in Leatherhead is for pedestrian use only during daytimes and that is 7 days a week?

Given that the community wants to follow Government advice on social distance and also want to support local business in being able to open safely without cars driving up the street and people having to dodge in between parked vehicles presenting further dangers to the public.

Whilst appreciating some people have a degree of mobility issues, ample parking is available for everyone in the Swan Centre, outside the Theatre etc.

Response:

Surrey County Council and the District Council are jointly considering emergency walking and cycling measures and in response to the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

These measures are in phases, and there is opportunity for the many good suggestions that we have received to be considered and prioritised for the available funding that we are hoping to be allocated. The often-opposing needs of different users of the highway, along with the needs of our most vulnerable pedestrians, are taken in to consideration as these emerging proposals are developed.

Our Pilots in Farnham and Reigate & Banstead will set the template for the rest of Surrey and provide valuable learning for any permanent infrastructure to support Active Travel.

In the immediate emergency phase, the suggestions have been prioritised for consideration within the four towns of Leatherhead, Dorking, Ashted and Bookham. The timeframe for these measures is for delivery within 4 – 8 weeks of funding being allocated.

Measures being considered include cycle parking, pavement widening, vegetation clearance, resurfacing footways.

It is proposed that our Highways Officers will be visiting key roads under consideration on Monday, Wednesday and Friday next week to gather information on the optimisation of pavement width (i.e. cycles attached to railings restricting width, A frame advertising boards etc).

Mole Valley District Council is also working on how to support the social distancing and hygiene requirements as more shops open from Monday 15th. Our local team is also going to see if the pavement widths in these town centres could be optimised through decluttering of signs etc.

The final active travel schemes for the first emergency phase have not be decided on as yet, however engineers are focusing on the proposed schemes that have been developed in collaboration with the District Council.

The emerging scheme for Leatherhead High Street is, in broad terms, looking at the hours of operation of the pedestrianisation of the High Street, facilities for cyclists, and parking restriction modifications.

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