



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL  
LOCAL COMMITTEE EPSOM & EWELL  
7 December 2020**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS**

**Question 1 - Cllr Julie Morris**

**Re: Upper High street parking bays**

Would the Committee please consider a change to the on-street parking arrangements in Upper High Street. The proposal is to enable the bays marked TAXIS on the cinema side to become on-street 30-minute parking bays for cars during the daytime, the same as the on-street parking bays on the other side of the road. They would remain available for the sole use of taxis after 6.30pm.

The Committee might want to consider marking a specific area for use by motor scooter delivery drivers, or other areas specifically for use ONLY by cars.

**Background**

Two residents have mentioned that the bays marked for taxis are never used. Observation over 6 months has confirmed that this is so, although one taxi was parked there on one evening during this period. On the other side of the road, the first two 30-minute parking bays outside Dreams which are adjacent to the two bays marked for disabled drivers, are used by dozens of motor scooter delivery drivers, of which most seem to be Deliveroo. This is preventing these two parking bays, which are for cars, from being used during the day and for most of the evening. The relaxation of restrictions on the bays marked for taxis would compensate for the loss of the bays used by Deliveroo drivers, who are apparently there legally.

On-street parking is really vital to the economic vitality of Upper High Street and it seems the bays marked for taxis are not required, certainly during the daytime.

Home delivery is on the increase and it is expected that the use of car parking bays by delivery motor scooters is only going to increase and situation for cars wishing to park for 30 minutes could therefore deteriorate.

**Officer Response:**

Officers have considered allowing parking during the day in the taxi rank area and feel that it would be both dangerous and obstructive.

The taxi rank is in the two lane section on the approach to the traffic signals and allowing parking during the day is likely to lead to a significant increase in queues on the approach to the junction – the taxi rank currently only operates in the evenings and was specifically placed there to assist with night time trading, for patrons of local pubs and restaurants.

There are no plans to change the restrictions on the existing bays to specific vehicles currently. The delivery riders are not breaking any rules as long as they only park for the time allowed. Observations over the last six months may not provide an accurate

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assessment of the long-term use, as restaurants and pubs have been closed or only open to takeaway for significant periods and car use has also changed.

### **Question 2 – Cllr Julie Morris**

#### **Re: Upper High Street removal of parking bays**

How many short-term parking bays have been lost in Upper High Street as a result of the double yellow lines laid in w/c 16.11.20, why have they been removed, was due process followed and objections able to be submitted, and will they be replaced elsewhere on-street?

#### **Officer Response:**

The changes to parking restrictions, were advertised for 28 days, ending on 30 July 2020, as is normal practice. Transport Development Planning placed notices on the highway at two locations, and letters were sent to properties directly affected.

The comments arising from representations to the parking consultation were collated at the end of the 28-day advert and summarised in a report to the Cabinet Member for Transport who agreed to the changes to parking restrictions on Upper High Street.

There will be a loss of about 8 on street parking bays as a result of Surrey Police and highway officers concerns that parked cars could obstruct the flow of traffic at the new right turn Lane to the Lidl site.

There are no plans to replace these bays elsewhere as there are other on street parking bays on Upper High Street and a surface car park nearby as well as additional parking which will be provided on the Lidl site when completed.

### **Question 3 – Cllr Julie Morris**

#### **Re: Installation of yellow lines**

Despite the majority of the work being undertaken in the middle of July and liaison with Mr Clavey, the single yellow line denoting curfew parking in Bridge Road, Epsom is still not complete. There is a car which never moves over an unpainted section and some spray painting in another area which is wearing off. What can be done to complete the task? Committee members are advised the curfew restrictions are generally working well, supported by residents, and being enforced when requests are made.

#### **Officer Response:**

Realistically, the county council and their contractors can only keep trying to fill in the last parts of the line. Installing yellow lines where cars are habitually and constantly parked is always a challenge. The contractors will keep visiting locations where there are gaps in lines, until they are able to complete them, but if there is always a car parked in the gap, there is nothing that they can do, except try again another day. Members of the council's parking team will fill in gaps with a temporary spray paint if they are able to when in the area, as has happened here. They let the contractor know that they have done so, but then must rely on the contractor to attend the site. Sometimes this can be very soon, but there are variables that make this far from an exact process, not least of which is the weather. For example, the contractor may schedule a visit only for the weather to ruin their plans as lining can only take place if the road surface is dry. As the contractor has to cover a wide range of different work, it is not always easy for them to reschedule a visit straightaway, for example they may have to prioritise replacement of more safety critical road markings following road resurfacing, such as double yellow lines on a junction. The committee can however be assured that the parking team and our contractor will keep working until the line is completed.