



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
EPSOM AND EWELL**

**Revision to the Bus Stop Clearway in
Station Approach, Epsom
And the Introduction of Bus Stop Clearways in
Longmead Road, Epsom
September 2013**

KEY ISSUE

To seek the Local Committee's approval to amend the times of restriction of the bus stop clearway in Station Approach Epsom and to introduce a clearway to the bus stop adjacent to Appleby House in Longmead Road.

SUMMARY

London Buses are proposing that service 418 (operated by Epsom Coaches) is re-routed to serve the new stop in Station Approach. New bus service E10 also commenced using this stop from 5th August and operates beyond the existing restriction times. To accommodate these changes the existing clearway restriction will need to be amended to 'at any time'.

To introduce a clearway for the existing bus stop adjacent to Appleby House in Longmead Road.

The Committee is asked to approve the implementation of the new times for Station Approach and the clearway for Longmead Road so that they can be enforced by the Borough Council Civil Enforcement Officers.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Epsom and Ewell Local Committee is asked to agree that:

1. The bus stop clearway restriction in Station Approach is changed to no stopping except local buses 'at any time'.
2. A clearway is introduced in Longmead Road at the bus stop adjacent to Appleby House with the restriction no stopping except local buses 'at any time'.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Surrey County Council, as the Highway Authority, has powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Traffic Sign Regulations and General Directions 2002 to create bus stop clearways. A bus stop clearway is a parking restriction at a bus stop that can be enforced by the District Councils Civil Enforcement Officers as they would waiting restrictions. They are, however, more onerous than waiting restrictions because the clearway also prohibits stopping and loading/unloading over the length of the bus stop.
- 1.2 Unlike waiting restrictions there is no mandatory statutory consultation process in order for a highway authority to implement a bus stop clearway. Consequently it is Surrey Highways policy that these measures are approved by the Local Committee to ensure that there is some local consultation prior to their implementation.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Bus stop clearways prevent vehicles stopping at bus stops and so ensure buses can pull up close and parallel to the kerb. This means that passengers do not have to get on and off the bus in the carriageway and enables ramps to be deployed for wheelchair users and pushchairs. Bus stop clearways also assist operators to maintain schedules more easily.
- 2.2 Following the original clearway request for the Station Approach bus stop, there is now a previously unforeseen requirement to accommodate buses operating earlier and later. This for London Buses service 418 (operated by Epsom Coaches) and it is essential for the entire length of the bus stop to be kept clear of all other vehicles. If this request is not agreed, there is a risk that buses will need to load and unload in the carriageway and passengers with mobility problems will be disadvantaged. Service 418 operates between 06:00 and midnight. In addition to this new bus service E10 to Noble Park is already operating beyond the current 7-7 clearway restriction.
- 2.3 Epsom Coaches have requested a clearway restriction for the bus stop adjacent to Appleby House Nursing Home in Longmead Road. This is to allow the bus to access the kerb enabling the residents of Appleby House to board and alight the bus without walking into the carriageway. The restriction to be 'at any time' which is appropriate to the level of bus service operation.

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 Epsom Coaches (the bus operating company) has been consulted and agree with the proposals. Comments below from Steve Whiteway, Managing Director of Epsom Coaches:

Epsom Coaches operate around 60% of the bus services radiating to and from Epsom, both on local "Surrey" services and for TfL under our Quality Line brand. Clearways for buses are absolutely essential to avoid gridlocking the town centre given that buses have little option in terms of finding alternative road space, a flexibility that is available to taxis. The number of passengers travelling by bus is also far greater and therefore of paramount consideration in

providing adequate public transport and the ability to offer full accessibility for the disabled, which is not possible without clearways dedicated to the bus.

With the above in mind and with the greater good in mind for the passenger transport mix, the bus stop clearways in Station Approach and Longmead Road should be extended to 24/7 operation and remain for the sole use of bus services. This allows for punctual operations and gives buses priority.

3.2 County and Borough Councillors will have been sent a copy of this report in advance of the meeting.

3.3 If approved these restrictions will be implemented following a letter drop to affected frontagers.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Implementation of the proposed bus stop clearways will be funded by the Passenger Transport Group

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Buses that can pull up to the kerb allow passengers with mobility problems to board more easily and safely.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Clear and enforceable parking restrictions help improve compliance and reduce obstruction problems

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Bus stop clearways help keep parked vehicles away from bus stops which makes it easier for passengers, particularly those with mobility problems to board. Buses are also less likely to block traffic behind.

It is recommended to extend the hours of restriction of the bus stop clearway in Station Approach to accommodate the operating hours of London Buses service 418.

It is also recommended to introduce a bus stop clearway adjacent to Appleby House in Longmead Road where problems with parked vehicles are currently experienced by buses trying to access the bus stop.

8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Bus stop clearways help improve bus services in Surrey, one of the objectives of our Local Transport Plan.

9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

9.1 Subject to Local Committee approval the bus stop clearways will be implemented and the restrictions enforced.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

Version No. Date: Time: Initials: No of annexes: