

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)**DATE: 24 FEBRUARY 2021**

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR A YELLOW BOX MARKING AT THE VINCENT LANE/WESTCOTT ROAD JUNCTION AND ON SOUTH STREET AT THE ENTRANCE TO DORKING SERVICE CENTRE

DIVISION: DORKING SOUTH & THE HOLMWOODS/DORKING HILLS

PETITION DETAILS:**Mole Valley Local Committee Petition (24 February) Summary:**

Stop traffic congestion in Dorking
Aren't you fed up with the traffic congestion in Dorking?

We want to introduce two junction boxes which will help reduce the congestion in town. One on Westcott Road where traffic feeds in from Vincent Lane. Introducing a yellow box at this junction will prevent cars from sitting in the middle of the road when the lights change (to red) from Vincent Lane and keep the traffic flowing from the Westcott road. The other on South Street outside Dorking Service Centre to enable them to access to their business.

These junction boxes will allow for a greater flow of cars moving throughout the town.
No more stagnant traffic

RESPONSE:

The A25 Westcott Road/Vincent Lane/Howard Road/Drill Hall Road junction is a cross roads junction on the one-way system in Dorking.

It is appreciated that many people feel that a yellow box installed at this junction would help to assist traffic to exit Vincent Lane and turn right, because sometimes traffic travelling eastbound on the A25 Westcott Lane queues across the junction, and there is concern that this stops traffic being able to turn right out of Vincent Lane on a green light on to the A25.

This very same request, for a yellow box to be installed on the A25 Westcott Road/Vincent Lane, has been assessed on a number of occasions and has also been raised as a question and as petitions to the Mole Valley Local Committee, the last time being the Mole Valley Local Committee on 22 January 2020.

Yellow boxes are useful to install to enable a gap to be created to enable vehicles to turn right out of junctions where vehicles are queuing across the junction from the left. However, installing a half-yellow box on the side of the road opposite a T-junction, which is being requested here, generally serves no useful purpose. Even though it will create a gap in a queue of traffic, drivers turning right from Vincent Lane will not be able to enter the box as the exit outside the yellow box will be obstructed due to queuing vehicles. As a result, drivers turning right out of Vincent Lane will have to wait on a green signal until the queuing vehicles on the A25 have cleared, which will

increase congestion on Vincent Lane. Also, traffic travelling on the A25 Westcott Road into Dorking Town Centre will be prevented from proceeding because they will have to give way to traffic travelling out of Vincent Lane more frequently. They will also have to wait until the exit outside the yellow box is clear of queuing vehicles, even on a green signal, leading to longer queues on the A25 Westcott Road. Therefore, there are no plans to install a yellow-box junction at the A25 Westcott Road/Vincent Lane junction.

It is appreciated that there are times when congestion occurs in Dorking town centre, which can lead to many accesses being temporarily blocked. There are a number of roads, both public and private, and also private accesses onto South Street none of which have KEEP CLEAR markings provided. Installing a KEEP CLEAR marking outside the private access to Dorking Service Centre would set a precedent for the installation of such markings on all of the public and private roads and accesses on to South Street. Creating a considerable number of KEEP CLEAR areas on South Street would reduce the length of carriageway available for vehicles to queue leading to further congestion, and increase the maintenance required. Therefore, there are no plans to install KEEP CLEAR markings on South Street.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to note:

1. That the installation of a yellow box at this junction will not be effective at reducing congestion on Vincent Lane or the A25 Westcott Road and will likely lead to further congestion.
2. There are no plans to install KEEP CLEAR markings on South Street, which could lead additional queuing/congestion on South Street.

Contact Officer:

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