

Ward Members Comments

Councillor Alexander-

I am writing to formally object to the proposed schemes of:

1. No waiting at any time restrictions on each side of the junctions along the Hollybank Road, Collingwood Avenue route (double yellow lines)
2. No waiting 7am to 7pm restrictions along the lengths of the road between the proposed restrictions at the junctions (single yellow lines)

This objections should replace the previous objection submitted on 29/08/08.

I have received a number of concerns from local residents, I have door knocked on several occasions and I have carried out several site visits.

Process

The consultation letters originally did not go to a wide enough audience. I know it is usual to only consult the residents who have a front door onto the affected street but the proposed restrictions will lead to a change in car parking behaviour and access for the surrounding area. I requested that the consultation letters go out to a wider audience and I am grateful this happened. I am also appreciative for the deadline of consultation to be extended after I raised concerns over residents receiving the subsequent requested letters with little time to respond. I raised concerns over the date for submission confusing people due to being dated as 2005 as opposed to 2008. The way information has been given on this process has been confusing. Some residents received the original letter, some the new, some people spoke to me, some to Councillor Stephen Galloway and the residents have been receiving different pieces of information. This is especially true over the emotive subject of the No. 16 bus.

No. 16 Bus

There was an issue with the No. 16 bus that could not get down Hollybank Road. This was due to an abandoned car that had road tax on it. This has now been removed and there is very little problem manoeuvring as the bus has done for some years (admittedly parking has increased over the years). Initial concerns of some residents over the bus moving to its current functioning route seemed to have faded. However after conversations with Councillor Stephen Galloway, some residents have contacted me regarding their desire for the bus to return to its original route. A new bus stop has been placed down Hamilton Drive at the cost of approximately £3000. I asked for this bus stop to be placed as close to the residents who have missed out by the re-routing as possible. Some residents did not want the bus stop placed outside their house and engineers said the stop could not be placed on a curve. Therefore it is at its current location. I was told by Council officers that first bus company did not want to continue with an ad-hoc bus stop via a hail service next to the post box. However I have also been told by another officer that first would consider re-routing the bus back to its original route if certain restrictions were put in

place. I have now been informed by some residents that the new stop is too far for some elderly residents to walk. I am in favour of the bus being reinstated for those residents who have contacted me since the submission of my original objection on 29/08/08. However I think the proposed restrictions are too severe for local residents who park. I would also like to see the bus company guarantee a return to the old route as a basis for negotiations over less severe restrictions as opposed to bringing in restrictions for a bus that may not be re-routed to its original route. After all the first bus company has spent approximately £3000 on the new bus stop, surely the distance between this bus stop and the post box would be too small to have two bus stops? Furthermore, if the Council officer who informed me that that the bus company does not want a hail service next to the post box is correct, a new bus stop would have to be fitted and the no waiting restrictions would be on the opposite side of the road. This would make it unsafe for elderly and children as they would have to hail the bus from the middle of the road.

Parking

The area covered by restrictions already has some parking difficulties. Admittedly some people in the cul-de-sacs off the proposed double-yellow lines have welcomed the concept (due to greater access in and out of the cul-de-sac), residents of Clive Grove have not. The proposal would force greater parking onto the other side of the road, including Clive Grove and lead to access issues for this street. Clive Grove is not a part of the original plans and the residents do not want this street to be seen as the alternative parking area. Furthermore the limit on car parking caused by this proposal would affect neighbouring streets. This plan could be seen as a precursor to residents parking. I have no difficulty with residents having residents parking if they wish to. However, my anecdotal evidence is that the residents here do not want this and I feel uneasy about creating a situation where residents parking becomes necessary as some clearly cannot afford this. There is a concern that the proposed restrictions will increase the need to park on grass verges. This leads to damage of the verges, blocked gullies and in some recent cases burst pipes underneath the verges. I am also concerned about this as recently the Council informed me that it has no powers of enforcement over parking on verges and that such parking is tolerated. Furthermore I contacted the police and they said they have no powers of enforcement over the issue. Therefore there is currently no visible answer to parking on verges. There is also concern by families who will have to cross the road to get to their parked vehicles as with a clear lane of traffic, there will be increased traffic speed.

Speed

With these proposed restrictions on one side of the street speed along Hollybank Road and Collingwood Avenue will increase. I think this will be more dangerous for children and the elderly than the current situation.

I welcome the decision to bring this meeting to EMAP and I would like to register to speak at the 8th December EMAP.

Councillor James Alexander on behalf of Councillor James Alexander, Councillor Denise Bowgett and Councillor Sonja Crisp

Councillor Crisp - No comments received.

Councillor Bowgett - No comments received.