

COUNCIL – 20TH JULY 2023 – STANDING ORDER 30 QUESTION

Question from Councillor O’Driscoll to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Sayer)

I welcome the recent announcement that London-style contactless rail payments are being extended to Spelthorne by the end of this year. This step will make commuting for residents there so much easier. Tandridge residents have made representations that they would be keen to see this extended from Upper Warlingham to other parts of Tandridge including in Oxted, Lingfield and Dormansland?

Will the Leader of the Council join me in supporting the extension of London-style contactless rail payments to the rest of Tandridge?

Response from the Leader of the Council (Councillor Sayer)

I would be happy to support any representations you would like to make regarding contactless rail payments because I agree it would make it easier for many rail users in Tandridge. However, I also believe it is very necessary to keep a cash option available for those who are not able to use, or are not comfortable with, contactless.

The other thing I want to raise is the recent announcement of plans to close more than 1,000 rail ticket offices within the next three years, including those in our District.

A considerable number of residents have been in touch about this from around the District, expressing their opposition and concern that this will disadvantage large sections of the community, particularly the more vulnerable sections.

If anyone wants to express their views on the proposed closures, there is a consultation running. It’s a very short one, it’s only 21 days, so you have to be quick off the mark, but it’s running until next Wednesday 26th July. I think it would be good if as many people as possible could send in their views.