

Result of the consultation on appointing a stand for Hackney Carriages at Station Road East, Oxted

Community Services Committee Thursday, 15 June 2023

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive

Purpose: For decision

Publication status: Open

Wards affected: Oxted North and Tandridge

Executive summary:

To consider the comments received during the consultation period and to determine the appointment of a stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway at the proposed site of Station Road East, Oxted at the side of 129 to 131 (Lorimers).

The process for the approval of taxi stands is subject to consultation. As there were comments received during the consultation period, the matter has returned to Committee for determination.

This report supports the Council's priority of:

Creating the homes, infrastructure and environment we need

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Recommendation to Committee:

- A. To consider the comments received in the consultation period from members of the public
- B. To determine appointing a stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway at the proposed site of Station Road East, Oxted at the side of 129 to 131 (Lorimers).

- C. If the Committee determines to appoint stand, the Committee must authorise in accordance with The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 Regulation 11 and Schedule 6.
 - D. If the Committee determines not to appoint the stand, the Committee must provide full reasons for their decision.
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Reason for recommendation:

- A. As objections were received during the consultation period, the matter has returned to committee for consideration.
 - B. To appoint the stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway at the proposed site of Station Road East, Oxted at the side of 129 to 131 (Lorimers) in accordance with section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
 - C. To comply with The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 Regulation 11 and Schedule 6.
 - D. To justify the decision to refuse to appoint the taxi stand.
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Introduction and background

- 1.1 On 17th January 2023, the Committee approved the advert for the public consultation on appointing a stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway. The public notice was issued in the local press on 2nd February 2023 for 28 days.
- 1.2 During the consultation period there were 7 comments received from members of the public:
 - There were 5 comments received in objection of the proposal, attached at Appendix 'A' of this report.
 - There were 2 comments received in support of the proposal, attached at Appendix 'B' of this report.
- 1.3 The current taxi stand at Station Road East in Oxted located in the centre of the carriageway was adopted by the Council, to hold 4 vehicles and to operate 24 hours a day. The proposal is to appoint the taxi stand to the side of the carriageway to also hold 4 vehicles and to operate 24 hours a day. The site plan is attached at Appendix 'C'.
- 1.4 Appointing a stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway at the proposed site of Station Road East, Oxted at the side of 129 to 131 (Lorimers) will improve public safety by allowing passengers to enter and exit taxis safely from the pavement. This will also improve traffic flow by allowing more space for vehicles to manoeuvre.
- 1.5 Surrey County Council were contacted by the taxi trade for the change in the layout due to safety. Pedestrians wanting a taxi need to walk in the middle of the road to speak to the driver and to get into the vehicle. Other vehicles using the parking bays or picking up/dropping off passengers, especially with

the size of modern cars, have to squeeze past parked vehicles in the parking bays and the taxis in the taxi stand.

- 1.6 Following the request by the trade and the approval from the Tandridge Local Committee of Surrey County Council, Surrey County Council formally advertised in the Surrey Mirror newspaper, by putting notices on street light columns and parking bay signs and sent postcards to local addresses advising them that changes to parking were planned with a link to their website with the full details. This consultation was for a 28 day period ending on the 10th February 2022 for comments and objections. In respect of this consultation, there were no comments received.
- 1.7 The decision for this Committee is under section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Act) 1976, for the Council to appoint a stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway at the proposed site of Station Road East, Oxted at the side of 129 to 131 (Lorimers).
- 1.8 The comments must be considered by the Committee prior to determining appointing a stand at the proposed site of Station Road East, Oxted at the side of 129 to 131 (Lorimers).
- 1.9 Subject to the approval of the Committee, Surrey County Council Highway have included the relocation of the taxi stand in the current works order.

Consultation

- 2.1 Public consultation occurred immediately after the decision of the 17th January 2023 Committee. The consultation lasted twenty eight days from the date of the first publication of the notice on 2nd February 2023.
- 2.2 During the consultation, the comments attached at Appendix 'A' and 'B' were received.

Key implications

Comments of the Chief Finance Officer

- 3.1 The recommendations contained in this report have no direct financial implications to the Council.

Comments of the Head of Legal Services

- 4.1 There are no particular legal implications provided section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 is complied with and all relevant considerations are taken into account including any local transport plan. The power for District Councils to create hackney carriage stands (more commonly referred to as taxi ranks) is contained in Section 63(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. This legislation enables District Councils to create taxi ranks in any highway in the District that is maintainable at public expense, with the consent of the Highway Authority.

Equality

- 5.1 Should the stand be adopted, this change of layout will have a positive impact by improving access for all passengers. The change will make a positive impact towards: Road safety, access for emergency vehicles, access for refuse vehicles, easing traffic congestion, controlling parking and public safety.

Climate change

- 6.1 There are no significant environmental / sustainability implications associated with this report.

Appendices

Appendix 'A' – Comments received in objection to the proposal

Appendix 'B' – Comments received in support to the proposal

Appendix 'C' – Site plan

Background papers

Community Services Committee Tuesday, 17th January, 2023 7.30 pm - Report and decision of 'Appointing a stand for Hackney carriages on the public highway at Station Road East in Oxted.

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