

**Hackney Carriage Stands – Obelisk Way,
Camberley**

Portfolio:	Community
Ward(s) Affected:	All

Purpose

To consider the extension of the hackney carriage stand in Obelisk Way for Taxis to stand and ply for hire.

Background

1. In 2010 the Police approached the Camberley Town Centre Consultative Group and the Surrey Heath Partnership to request a temporary road closure of Camberley High Street on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights for a period of six weeks. This request was to reduce crime and disorder in the town centre during these periods. During this time, crime and disorder was dramatically reduced by 50%. The road was closed under the Town Police Clauses Act 1837. This Act can only be used for a short periods of time.
2. Since 2010, consultations have taken place to determine whether the High Street could be closed on a more permanent basis. Surrey County Council has now delegated authority to the Local Area Committee for Surrey Heath. It was agreed that an experimental road closure should be put in place for Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights. The proposal will also cover: the all bank holidays; the preceding Sundays to each bank holiday; Christmas Eve; Christmas Day; New Year's Eve. The closure is expected to begin in August 2012 and is expected to last for 18 months. If there are no insurmountable problems during this period, it is expected that the road closure will continue beyond this time.

Current Positions

3. The closure of the High Street during these times will result in the Taxi rank situated at the southern end of the High Street outside the Goose, and the part-time rank midway down the High Street outside Tru nightclub being inaccessible. Taxis are vital to the night-time economy being the only evening transport available.
4. It is an offence for hackney carriages to 'tout' for businesses. Taxis which are plying for hire on the side of a carriage way who are not stationed on a hackney carriage stand may be guilty of this offence.
5. Due to the impending experimental road closure, it has been necessary to establish additional spaces to accommodate Taxis. After discussions with Surrey County Council Highways Authority, it was agreed that the current taxi stand situated on Obelisk Way be extended during the road closure times. Under Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, before a stand for hackney carriages can be varied to increase capacity, notices of intention to appoint the rank must be advertised.
6. The advertisement was circulated in the Camberley News for 28 days and is attached at Annex A. The Taxi Stand currently accommodates 5 vehicles and it is proposed to increase this to 10. An aerial plan showing the new taxi stand is

attached at Annex B. Both the Police and Highways Authority have been consulted and have agreed to the proposals, raising no objections to the extended stand.

7. Two representations have been received from hackney carriage drivers. These are attached at Annex C. Whilst both representations express concern over the merits of the experimental road closure, neither has raised concerns over the taxi stand extension.

Proposal

8. Having regard to the situation with the High Street closure and the consequential loss of two hackney carriage stands, it is proposed that the current hackney carriage stand on Obelisk Way be extended to accommodate 10 vehicles.

Resource Implications

9. There are no resource implications.

Recommendation

10. The Committee is advised to endorse the proposal that the hackney carriage stand on Obelisk Way be extended in accordance with the statutory advertisement to accommodate 10 vehicles.

Background Papers: None

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