

Traffic Regulation Order – Swale Amendment 18 – Summary of Objections and Support

PROPOSED SINGLE YELLOW LINES (MOTORHOME RESTRICTIONS) – SOUTH STREET, QUEENBOROUGH

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

“The Town Council have now reviewed the traffic regulation order at its Planning Meeting held on the 24th August, in regards to the yellow lines at South Street in Queenborough.

In reply to the consultation, Town Councillors' would like to propose that the restrictions to be put in place, which will only apply to motor homes, are set between the hours of 8pm and 6am and not from 6pm as the consultation states.”

SUPPORT 1

“I am writing to you to confirm our support of the above traffic regulation order. As residents we believe the planned restrictions would be a good idea for the street as we have had many motorhomes park up over the whole summer causing congestion and litter . We hope that the proposed single yellow lines to restrict overnight motorhome parking will alleviate this issue.”

SUPPORT 2

“We refer to the notice given to introduce parking restrictions for motorhomes along South Street Queenborough.

We fully support this proposal. During the last two years motorhomes have made use of South Street to provide free long term accomodation. This has had a adverse effect due to:

- *The users of the motorhomes use residents wheelie bins for waste disposal*
- *The users obtain free water from the fishermans stand pipe*
- *How sewage is disposed of is unknown, but is probably poured into the Creek at high tide*
- *The large vehicles take up valuable parking spaces when the High Street is full*
- *The large vehicles can partially block access to delivery trucks to the MIT yard and trucks which attempt to use South Street to access Aesica works*
- *The large vehicles block the view of the Creek for residents of High Street and the many visitors to the fishing quay*

Residents Parking along the High Street would also be of great benefit to residents given the large amount of visitors to the various events held at the local pubs.

Best Regards and many thanks for proposing this order.”

PROPOSED DOUBLE YELLOW LINES – COURT TREE DRIVE, EASTCHURCH

OBJECTION 1

“With reference to the above amendment to install yellow lines in Court Tree Drive, I must express my concern that prohibiting parking will deny many local people access to Kingsborough Manor Community Woodland.

The woodland is a haven of nature and wildlife and used regularly by walkers, dog walkers and as an area for exercise etc. The location of the park means, unless you live ‘on the doorstep’, driving is the only safe option to visit the park. Therein lies the problem. A beautiful adventure in nature is limited to the lack of parking places installed when the park was developed.

On occasion, it is possible to park 2 vehicles at the Plough Road access point, but during the winter months the ground is often a muddy puddle and not suitable for 2 vehicles to squeeze into. Plough Road is also quite narrow which inhibits safe parking.

The alternative is to park near the red post box at the main entrance of the park on Court Tree Drive. To prohibit parking here, will only move the problem, not solve it. Visitors will park further into the estate, possibly causing angst and disruption to residents. It is also likely, that some visitors who may – for reasons of ability and disability – be excluded completely due to the extra distance of walking from a parking spot inside the estate.

I really feel the installation of yellow lines will deny many of us the use of this wonderful park.

We are currently living through an exceptional period of pandemic and social distancing and the park is an ideal outdoor area to exercise and adhere to social distancing during Covid19 and I believe it will not be in the best interest of the community to prohibit parking without providing an immediate alternative during these unprecedented times.”

OBJECTION 2

“I am writing to Object to the intention to put double yellow lines on both sides of Court Tree Drive Eastchurch.

For several years my wife and I have enjoyed walking around the Kingsborough green area. We have always parked by the gateway, there has never been any problems as the road at that point is very wide. With double yellow lines installed we, and other users of the green area, will have to park outside the properties along Court Tree Drive. The road is much narrower there. We are sure residents will not welcome that.

We can see that yellow lines on the north side, where we have not seen any parking, would ensure that any drivers entering the estate would have an unrestricted access.”

OBJECTION 3

“I wish to object to the proposed order to install double yellow lines on both sides of Court Tree Drive, Eastchurch from Eastchurch Road to the junction of Coultrip Close, because currently there is no alternative parking available for people using The Kingsborough Community Woodland and Park.... I do agree that there should be double yellow lines on the north side of Court Tree Drive, but regarding the south side, where the main entrance to the park is situated, there really needs to be a designated parking area between the main gate to the park to just past the letter box initially in the form of a temporary layby, until such time that a permanent car park can be constructed, on land within the park itself.

As you know, a (recent) resident of Court Tree Drive has instigated the proposal for double yellow lines and actually confronted me about 2 weeks ago when I’d parked just short of the main gate and taken my dog

for his (and my own) daily exercise in the park in the late afternoon, and he was very abusive, threatening and somewhat intimidating.... Other people who I've since spoken to have had, and continue to be the subject of similar experiences from this person, including some people who actually live on the estate.

The Kingsborough Community Woodland & Park is a great amenity and very popular and available to ALL residents and others on Sheppey including walkers, horse riders, dog walkers and others and it's the closest of such amenities to my home in Seaview Terrace in Plough Road. Unfortunately there is very limited and quite dangerous access on foot to Court Tree Drive and the Community Park as Eastchurch Road does not benefit from pedestrian footpaths from Chequers Road to the Lower Road. The road is one of the main roads on the island as well as a bus route resulting in it being very busy at most times of the day (and night). I agree that the layout of Court Tree Drive between the roundabout and Coultrip Close is badly planned, but the entrance to the park and people currently parking near the entrance aren't visible to any of the houses on the estate, also Court Tree Drive and the rest of the estate is subject to a 30mph speed limit and is busy because it's the only vehicular access to the estate, but I'd suggest that some, if not all the residents are obviously contravening the speed limit entering and exiting the housing estate.

There is, (unlike the estate), another entrance to the community park, that being in Plough Road almost opposite the Ashcroft Holiday Park, but Plough Road from Chequers Road to just past my house is subject to, (albeit rarely if ever enforced) a 30mph speed limit, but eastward from the end of Seaview Terrace and the old Plough PH, Plough Road becomes a single carriageway country lane with for whatever reason, a 60mph speed limit with very few passing places and is very busy, particularly in the summer when the holiday parks are open. I have used the Plough Road entrance to the Community Park quite often, but I have to say that Plough Road and access to the park is potentially a fatal accident just waiting to happen. However, the person who has instigated all of this, is adamant that Plough Road should have a car park and become the main entrance to the park rather than at the Court Tree Drive entrance to the community park or anywhere near his home.

To conclude, I do hope that something can be done by your department to satisfy all parties, but I do wonder why this community woodland and park appears to be the only one on Sheppey that does not have a designated permanent car park, and I feel that there are far more deserving sites that warrant double yellow lines, in particular Chequers Road from its junction with Plough Road and Eastchurch Road that is a very busy main road and bus route and is the subject to almost weekly accidents. Meanwhile, please don't hesitate to contact me should you require and further information or assistance from me."

OBJECTION 4

"Re the double yellow lines in Court Tree Drive, Eastchurch, the majority of people parking there are elderly and some disabled. What is the point of stopping them parking there and have to park further up the road? The bend in the road allows cars to park and still leave sufficient road space to overtake. Double yellow lines on the Chequers side makes sense but not on the Eastchurch side. I was informed by yourselves that the Council are reactionary, and has nothing changed why alter things now."

OBJECTION 5

"We as Dog Walkers wish to Object to the yellow lines being placed along Court Tree Drive adjacent to Kingsborough Manor Country Park as there is no Car Park into the Country Park where are we supposed to Park in order to walk our dogs.. This is a nonsense the road is wide enough for everyone, and we don't park outside anyones house because there is more than enough room to park along side the gate. On average dog walks are there for less than an hour. Will Swale Borough Council provide a Car Park? if this goes a head."

SUPPORT 1

“Following your recent letter and plan regarding the above proposal, we are in full support of the installation of double yellow lines.

*As residents of Number *, Court Tree Drive, our house is by far the most precarious to exit our drive with any degree of safety with the cars constantly parked opposite.*

Being the first house on a blind bend it's virtually impossible to see anything to the right with the oncoming cars (often driven at 40mph which should be 30mph) and better still at 20mph!! An appropriate sign showing 'Concealed Entrance' might at least make people aware and slow down, and maybe this could be considered by yourselves and included in the changes.

Kingsborough Manor has now been in existence for some 20 years and has expanded considerably in this time with 250 now built. As the highest council tax of any estate on Sheppey it has therefore generated millions of pounds in council tax revenue to SBC over this period.

In light of this it is not an unreasonable request to ask SBC to re-open the original car park to the green space situated in Plough Road for the many visitors who, at present, park at the entrance of Court Tree Drive and walk into the park.

Plough Road car park is made for purpose, already exists, only requiring the removal of the posts preventing access.

Since this green space has been advertised on the SBC site during the lockdown, it has brought it's existence to many people, who, having found it, now return daily and will continue to do so for dog walking and family walks. As many as 50 cars per day every day arrive outside to use the park. We know this will not change in the future and has now resulted in this dangerous situation for residents coming to and -fro and visitors who simply have nowhere to park.

I trust this matter will be executed with both the yellow lines and a proper and safe car park at your very earliest convenience.”

SUPPORT 2

*“I have seen the plans for Court Tree Drive to have yellow lines and support this. If the issue is sightlines rather than the owner of * Court tree drive just not wanting people to park outside his house I support them. However the verb expletive Laden tirade I got from him last Saturday when I parked there for the first time in the 5 years I have lived on Kingsborough Manor was not welcome.*

*Whilst on the subject of junction safety I would like to know the process for applying for double yellows for the junction of Carey Close and Hustlings Drive. There we have a situation where the owner of ** Hustlings Drive has built brick pillars with bushes in between which are a site hazard when pulling out from Carey close as the view is obscured. It's then exacerbated by him parking a 20 foot long 10 foot high camper van on the junction permanently which causes major sightline issues for people seeking to pull out of Carey Close onto the only road that 75% of the residents have to use to leave the estate and it is an accident waiting to happen.*

Please let me know how we start the process so we can have restrictions placed on the parking of mobile homes within 50 feet of a junction which I believe is contravention of the highway code.”

SUPPORT 3

“Thank you for your recent communication regarding the proposed double yellow lines at the entrance to Court Tree Drive, Kingsborough Manor.

We wish to add our support to this proposal.

We have ourselves had several near misses when entering Court Tree Drive from the B2008 roundabout due to vehicles leaving the estate having to drive on the wrong side of the road to avoid the line of cars parked at the entrance. Also when leaving our drive we have to take a wide turn on to the opposite side of the road to clear these vehicles whilst trying to avoid oncoming traffic.

This is a residential estate and 99% of the vehicles parked are from outside this area. They also park on the path which inhibits use of the pavement causing prams, pushchairs and mobility scooters / wheelchairs to have to use the road to get past them.

We have also noticed that during this summer there have been a record number of cars parking there and it is constant, as one vehicle leaves there is another waiting to park, all you can hear are car doors continuously slamming from first thing in the morning until dark.

On entering Court Tree Drive the vehicles stop opposite number 4 and reverse into Coultrip Close, then pull out and park near the entrance of the bridle path. We have seen numerous near misses where cars stop and start to reverse without checking if there is anything following them.

If the yellow lines only stretch as far number 2, they will park outside number 4 and this would cause a bottleneck and obstruct vehicles exiting Coultrip Close.

We have heard that there may be the possibility of a designated parking area in Plough Lane and as there are not any residential properties in the vicinity this may be an option."

PROPOSED DOUBLE YELLOW LINES – ASHFORD ROAD, FAVERSHAM

SUPPORT 1

"As a local resident, I am fully supportive of the proposal to install double yellow lines on Ashford Road, on the west side between the existing single yellow lines and the roundabout leading to Tettenhall Way.

Vehicles are currently using the grass verge/road area and causing a restriction to the flow of traffic where the road narrows, and it is only a matter of time before an incident occurs.

While supportive of the proposal, there are three additional points I would raise for your consideration:

- 1. Owners of vehicles are ignoring the recently installed single yellow lines on the west side of Ashford Road between the M2 Junction and Faversham, so it is important that action is taken. This does not currently appear to be happening; without action being taken the measures would be ineffective.*
- 2. Has consideration been given to putting single/double yellow lines on the east side of Ashford Road? If drivers no longer park on the west side, they may simply use the east side and obstruct the pavement and roadway.*
- 3. As an Ashford Road resident, I do have concerns that drivers may resort to using the private road between Nos 93 and 71 for parking, so some support for residents in preventing or dealing with this if it occurs may be required."*

SUPPORT 2

“As a resident living close to the proposed double yellow lines I would like to indicate my support for the proposal. Cars parking between the M2 junction and Tettenhall Way restrict the width of the A251, leaving insufficient room for traffic to pass safely. The speed limit of 40 mph is also too high especially as the road includes a roundabout and several pedestrian crossing points.”

SUPPORT 3

“I write to confirm my support for the double yellow lines on the A251. My reasons:-

- 1. The inappropriate siting of the bus stop on the narrowest part of the road inhibits the free flow of traffic.*
- 2. I would remind the planners on this very site, a fatal accident occurred a few years ago. We are minded of how dangerous this part of the A251 is by the annual bouquet of flowers that appears.*
- 3. Today I witnessed two very large lorries trying to pass each other, almost impossible with the cars parked on the road at that point, holding up the traffic back to the roundabout one way and the motorway junction the other.*
- 4. Since the yellow lines were recently installed further along, the cars are already mounting the kerb cutting into the bank and hedgerow. Before long we have another LITTER STREWN LAYBY on one of the main entrances to the town. What an advertisement for the lovely town of Faversham!!”*