

Subject: **PROPOSED RELOCATION OF 'CHURCH LANE' WESTBOUND BUS STOP**

27th November 2020

Dear All

Please find below copy of my email 25/11/20 setting out my objection to the above on the grounds that I strongly believe relocation of the bus stop will create an increased risk of accidents compared to the current situation.

I would be grateful if you could provide me with opportunity to comment on the draft Parish Council response to these proposals to ensure that this opinion is fully and fairly represented.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards

25th November 2020

Dear Mr Smith

Further to receipt of your recent letter dated 19 November 2020 as a resident of Etchingam I object to the relocation of the bus stop as proposed. I believe the proposed location introduces a greater risks of accidents for the following reasons;

Existing Bus Stop Location

The existing bus stop provides the following benefits;

- An existing layby that allows buses to safely pull off the carriageway and avoiding conflict with traffic.
- A location which provides good forward visibility for westbound and eastbound vehicles.
- A location close to the station allowing legible and ready passenger transfer from the adjacent rail station for onward travel.

The reasons given for relocating of the bus stop do not fully appreciate the local context and are a result of the controlled parking zone designation and not the location of the bus stop. Potentially reviewing the controlled parking zone and effective enforcement should be considered as a preferable solution in the first instance.

Proposed Bus Stop Location

The proposed location for the bus stop has a number of substantial issues as follows;

- For westbound traffic the location of the proposed bus stop would be unsighted until a location approximately level with the existing bus stop. This is not clear from the second image provided in your letter which shows a favourable view from the opposite side of the road compared to the restricted view for westbound vehicles. Currently westbound traffic (often travelling in excess of the speed limit) frequently has to rapidly decelerate to navigate the existing on-street parking already located further to the west of De Etchingam House and the proposed on-road bus stop. This therefore presents an increased accident risk.
- When in use the proposed on-street bus stop would require westbound traffic to stop and back-up behind the bus or pull out blindly into the face of oncoming eastbound traffic. This therefore presents an increased accident risk.
- Eastbound traffic is frequently constrained by westbound traffic due to the existing on-street parking outside the St Mary's Church. When in use westbound traffic backed-up behind a parked bus would prevent movement in either direction. The introduction of an on-road bus stop, when in use, would require residents of The River House and De Etchingam House to make unsighted, blind turns out of their respective driveways. This is currently the case as vehicles commonly park on the double yellow lines outside The River House, due to a lack of effective enforcement. A bus stop in this location would exacerbate this problem and increase the accident risk.

For the above reasons I strongly believe the proposed bus stop location presents greater accident risks than the current situation and I would ask you to reconsider the proposed relocation.

Potential Alternative Solution

If the controlled parking zone designation at the existing bus stop cannot be reviewed a more ambitious proposal should be considered in line with current public transport thinking and policy. Etchingam station has extensive car parks which are mostly underutilised. This situation is likely to continue in the light of Covid-19 and a move to increased home working. Therefore the opportunity existing to locate a bus stop facility within the existing car park footprint (as demonstrated by the existing bus service and rail replacement uses). This would create a transport hub within Etchingam providing passenger convenience and remove the accidents risks highlighted above. While I appreciate that this would require a greater level of resources than the proposed 'quick-fix' solution, the long-term benefits would be greater and avoid negating one potential accident risk by introducing potentially greater accident risks.

I would welcome your thoughts and look forward to receiving your response.

Best Regards

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This e-mail was sent from the contact form on Etchingam Parish Council
(<http://etchinghamparishcouncil.org.uk>)