

Appendix 2 – Correspondence from residents

H78 Old London Road, Hastings

Email objection

Mr A, Old London Road, Hastings

18/05/2020

The proposed changes to the bus stop (ref H78) are entirely unnecessary and a total waste of taxpayers money. There is ample room for passengers to alight safely, "as is."

There is absolutely no necessity for 31 metres of road markings as it will not improve the present situation in the slightest as buses already have easy access to the kerbside.

The one thing that will improve the situation is to remove the trees that are destroying the pavements and making it extremely dangerous for all pedestrians, not just bus passengers.

Perhaps it may be prudent to alert the "HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE" and invite them to visit the road. In my view there will be a real danger of a serious accident, as the buses will obstruct the view of residents and visitors leaving their driveways on the extremely busy main A259 Coast road.

The safety of the residents must be paramount and should not be jeopardized for the sake of convenience. The lives of six families will be seriously affected if this proposal goes ahead.

The bus-stop in question is almost redundant and is barely used. (A fact I can attest to as the bus stops outside my property) and there is no need for any change as there are existing bus stops within a short distance further down Old London Road and a short distance up the road at the Mount Road junction.

I will be seeking legal advice and contacting my M.P. together with the other affected residents, with a view to preventing this total waste of council time, effort and resources, which I am sure could be better-used elsewhere.

As stated, the safety of the residents and their children must be the only consideration in this matter.

The convenience to the bus drivers must not be a consideration at all.

There is also an issue of discrimination, for no sensible reason, against the residents who will be the only people unable to park outside their own properties.

If you would care to pay a visit to the site we (The residents) would be glad to share our fears and concerns with you and the H.S.E.

19/05/2020

Dear Mr A,

Thank you for your recent email regarding the proposed Clearway marking on Old London Road (ref H78). I will forward your email to my Client at East Sussex County Council and they will consider the points you make and reply to you. In the meantime, no work will take place until a resolution has been arrived at and you have been informed.

I would like to highlight to you the bus stop is established at that location already. Buses and passengers use it regularly every day and I am not aware of any accidents being caused by a bus blocking visibility for other vehicles whilst it is in operation at this location. This stop arrangement is not uncommon countywide and is not perceived as a hazard, providing drivers exercise due care and attention. I will arrange for the accident record of Old London Road to be checked before we proceed any further.

Project Manager | Infrastructure & Transportation

19/05/2020

Thank you for your prompt reply.

As you stated, the "access to" and "safety of" the stop is already excellent, due to the fact there are at least 30 metres of dropped-kerbs preceding the bus-stop; so there are no obstacles preventing the bus drivers gaining access to the kerb-side.

The fact there have been no accidents in the 27 years we have resided at no .XXX bears testament to the fact there is no real need or logical reason to change anything.

Visibility issues affect only my family and me at the moment as the "Parked" buses completely block the access and exit to my property alone. The reason there have been no incidents thus far is due to the fact that both myself and my family are extremely safety conscious and vigilant.

There have been many occasions where we have been stranded in the middle of the road awaiting an opportunity to access our property, due to a parked bus, and other impatient motorists have attempted to overtake. (especially motorcycles). Regardless of due care and attention and diligence on the part of the residents they have no control over such prevalent incidents.

There is also the danger to vehicles exiting Richmond street as vehicles travelling South overtake the parked buses.

Your proposed changes will bring safety issues for another five residents, plus the general public, therefore increasing the possibility of a tragic accident.

I reason there is absolutely no need for the bus-stop to exist at all. It would be a much safer road without it in its present position as there is a perfectly safe bus-stop a very short distance down the road. The planting of trees in close proximity to the bus-stop is obviously a cause for concern where passenger safety is involved, when boarding or alighting the bus.

Were it removed, the danger and risk to all residents and passengers would be removed also.

Perhaps while you are checking the safety record of the bus-stop perhaps you could check the passenger statistics and assess whether it is a worthwhile use of public funds.

If you need a site meeting with peoples affected it would be nice to be consulted rather than merely informed "after the fact."

27/05/2020

Having received no reply from my email to you dated 19/05/20 I thought I would contact you again for an update. As the proposed work is starting in a couple of weeks I feel it necessary to push you for a response – or have you left it in the hands of the council as you proposed?

You stated that no works will start until we have resolved the issues over the concerns and fears of the residents. Is that still the case?

If you are no longer dealing with said concerns, could you please supply the name of the person who is dealing with them.

I have spoken to concerned residents and they are advocating involving our MP and the Observer newspaper.

Until I receive a reply from you it is difficult for us to move forward with our plan of action.

If I don't receive a reply soonest I will have to assume that nothing has changed and you are intending to proceed with the proposed changes.

28/05/2020

Dear Mr A,

Thank you for your latest email. I can give you an update; no problem.

I have forwarded your objection to my Client at East Sussex County Council. The issue is being discussed and will be included within the next County Council Lead Member report, due for discussion September 2020. I am no expert on the process, but I believe a decision is made at that meeting whether to go ahead with the works or not, based on the merit of what would be gained by carrying out the works vs what would be lost.

The Works will not continue until a) a decision is made at that meeting to continue with the works (in which case you will be informed well in advance of it taking place) or b) you withdraw your objection.

I hope this information is of some help. Once we have further news I will update you, but I suspect that will not be for several months. In the meantime if you have any questions about the work, drop me a message and I will do my best to answer them.

Project Manager | Infrastructure & Transportation

28/05/2020

Thank you for your prompt reply.

We will not be withdrawing our proposal and we still believe the bus stop should be removed completely, for the Health and Safety reasons stated in my email.

I am aware that the council is extremely short of funds, due to the problems our country is experiencing at this time; therefore, in our view, such projects are superfluous and there will be absolutely no "Gain" or "Value for Money" by spending taxpayers monies on this particular project.