

Gerrards Cross Town Council



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Clerk to the Council - Mrs Sue Moffat clerk@gerrardscross.gov.uk

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Directorate for Planning, Growth & Sustainability
Strategic Transport and Infrastructure
Service Director: Joan Hancox
Buckinghamshire Council
The Gateway
Gatehouse Road
Aylesbury, HP19 8FF
transportstrategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

29th July, 2020

Dear Ms Hancox,

Re: Proposal for a “quietway” scheme between Chalfont St Peter and Gerrards Cross

Following the meeting of the virtual EATF on 14 July, Gerrards Cross Town Council has agreed the need to further reiterate our opposition to the proposal for a temporary “quietway” scheme between Chalfont St Peter and Gerrards Cross. This letter: sets out our views as they were clearly not recognized in our previous correspondence of 23 June, nor acknowledged at the meeting; seeks clarification on your process and finally, how, working together, we might find a better way forward that both meets the needs of the local community whilst also meeting with Government policy.

First to the reasons for our opposition to the proposal:

- There is no need for this quietway, perfectly good alternates exist between the two towns which are used by cyclists and walkers. However, they do require maintenance as do the surfaces on the roads under discussion.
- Unintended consequence of road closures due to poor local knowledge. Those consequences are in regard to physical hazard with an increased use of single track lanes with dangerous junctions and residential roads where children may be playing. The other is in relation to environmental harm caused by increased carbon emissions and other air pollutants as motorists are obliged to take longer journeys and queue on the High Street.
- Access for the emergency and other services, the disabled, the local school to the streets that will essentially be cut off.
- Value for money and how approx. £85K of tax payers money might better meet the policy goals of central and local government within the constraints of the award as well as the needs of the local people.

As the Town Council, we have not yet found a resident or trader of Gerrards Cross who is supportive of this scheme.

In regard to the process you are following, we have a series of questions:

1. **The legal base:** We assume that you are making an Order under The Traffic Orders Procedure (Coronavirus) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2020. Is that correct? If so, have you yet made the order? It is unclear from your letter whether this is a proposal or notice of intent, if the Order has been made who was the ultimate decision taker? We note that there are notification stages for these orders, what is the process you propose to follow and when will you begin that notification? At the present a scattering of residents have received a letter from you.

2. **The evidence and analytical base:** On what basis did you come up with the proposed route? What consultation have you engaged in and what was the response? What is your evidence base for this route? What analysis have you undertaken that this represents value for money and how will you measure whether it has achieved its intended goal?

The Town Council does recognize the broad direction of travel that both Central Government and Buckinghamshire Council wish to take in both creating better access to walking and cycling whilst reducing carbon and other air pollutants. We feel our local knowledge and understanding of real community need could allow some helpful temporary schemes to be put in place. Some of the propositions we have in mind, would provide long term return others could be seen as genuine experiments. Sadly, the proposal is not yet right and puts the new Council's credibility into question, we believe that by demonstrating joint working we can reverse that.

We would therefore prefer to work with you to achieve a better outcome. My fellow Councillors and I would welcome further constructive dialogue and trust you agree. Our Town Clerk would be delighted to arrange a time so that we might discuss and agree a better plan.

I am copying this letter to Joy Morrisey MP, Councillors Gibbs, Smith and Chhokar, Nick Naylor, Cabinet Member for Transport, Clive Harriss, Cabinet Member for Sport and Leisure and we will be making it available to residents on our website.

Yours sincerely

S Moffat

Sue Moffat
Town Clerk
Gerrards Cross Town Council

Clerk and Financial Officer: Mrs S. Moffat

Office hours Monday 9:30am–1pm Tuesday 9:30am-1pm Thursday 9:30am-1pm