

Objection from Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC)

Mid Sussex District Council response to the consultation Hassocks Community Traffic Regulation Order

MSDC is broadly supportive of the proposed restrictions to tackle safety - such as double yellow line junction protection. However there are a number of concerns about the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) both on the impact they will have on the local economy and the ability to resource enforcement. It is considered that the proposed restrictions will not deliver the objective of the TRO to reduce a perceived impact of commuter parking on the local community for the following reasons:

Whilst a perceived commuter parking issue is acknowledged, it is considered that the needs of local full time workers in schools and businesses, residents who have no off-street parking and residents who may commute elsewhere without their vehicles, have not been considered in these proposals.

The proposed new double yellow lines and 8am – 6pm restrictions are likely to both displace the perceived commuter parking issues onto roads outside of the proposed area but also have a detrimental impact on local residents and businesses. There is concern that this has not been addressed appropriately in the proposed TRO and will have a significant impact on the wider community.

Given the scale and scope of these proposals, MSDC will be unable to resource enforcement of the proposed restrictions within the current enforcement contract with WSCC. It would not be reasonable to expect the costs of enforcement to fall to the District Council.

There are some elements of the proposal that even with additional resources, would not be enforceable, such as the proposed 12 – 1pm restrictions in 3 areas (Woodlands Road, Semley Road and Highlands Road). MSDC do not consider it to be appropriate to commit public funding to targeting enforcement activity in one community location on a daily basis at such a specific time i.e. between 12-1pm. This will have a significant impact on the District wide enforcement service and the Council would argue that it is not a good use of public resources. Furthermore it is considered that this restriction will have a significant impact and cause inconvenience for local residents and businesses with a potential negative impact on the local economy.

Officers have met with the District Council Ward Members who were not aware of the consultation and the detailed contents of this proposal. They may wish to make their own representation.

Finally, it is this Council's view that the advisory protection lines highlighted on Woodlands Road are not enforceable as part of a TRO.

CLLr Gary Marsh
Cabinet Member for Service Delivery
Mid Sussex District Council

County Council Response:

Upon considering the District Council's concerns it is accepted that the current resources available for parking enforcement in Mid Sussex cannot accommodate additional patrols in Hassocks. This issue was initially discussed with Hassocks Parish Council, who believed that the current level of enforcement in the village would be sufficient to adequately enforce the new restrictions and were prepared to accept that no additional enforcement resources would be requested unless further resources become available in future.

It was therefore proposed to install the scheme as advertised, accepting that no further enforcement would take place. This approach was discussed with the Director of Highways, Transport and Planning at the County Council, who was concerned that people regularly parking in Hassocks would soon realise that the new restrictions were not being strictly enforced and simply ignore them. This would lead to complaints from residents and re-open the resourcing problems highlighted in MSDCs correspondence. There was also concern that installing restrictions without providing adequate enforcement would bring the parking operation into disrepute.

Further discussions identified that the issue causing most concern for the MSDC enforcement teams was the introduction of restrictions prohibiting waiting between midday and 1pm on lengths of various roads in the village. This restriction would require enforcement officers to be present at a very specific time each day, which is not practicable with other commitments around the district.

It is therefore proposed to remove the proposed restriction prohibiting waiting between midday and 1pm from the scheme, with the exception of the northern end of Woodlands Road, where the restriction is considered necessary for local reasons.

MSDC confirm they will retract their objection if the scheme is modified in this way, provided it is accepted that no additional enforcement resources can be provided as a result of the new restrictions being installed. A copy of their letter to this effect is included below:



Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1SS

Switchboard: 01444 458166

DX 300320 Haywards Heath 1
www.midsussex.gov.uk

Contact:
Rob Anderton 01444 477374, Fax: 01444 477507
E-Mail: robert.anderton@midsussex.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

Date: 15 August 2019

Cllr Ian Weir - Chairman
Hassocks Parish Council
Parish Centre
Adastra Park
Hassocks
West Sussex
Cllr BN6 8QH

Dear Cllr Weir

Hassocks Community Traffic Regulation Order

Further to your email received on 5 August 2019, after careful consideration of Hassocks Parish Council's proposals, Mid Sussex District Council responds as follows.

The Council notes that the Parish Council is proposing to remove all but one of the 1 hour waiting restrictions proposed for Highlands Close, North Court, Semley Road, and part of Woodland Road and this decision is welcomed.

However, this Council notes the Parish Council is proposing to retain part of the proposed restriction on Woodland Road to facilitate access; this Council maintains that this is not appropriate and will not address the perceived issues in this location. However, with some reservations the Council withdraws its substantive objection to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order.

The basis that WSCC considers this Council's reservations before considering the approval of this Traffic Regulation Order are as follows:

- Mid Sussex District Council does not agree that this restriction will address the concerns raised by residents, but acknowledges that within the current consultation framework there may not be a better solution.
- After consideration of the enforcement resources provided by WSCC, Mid Sussex can only provide an enforcement patrol once a fortnight for this specific restriction.
- Please note it is not good practice for the Highway Authority to approve a Traffic Regulation Order restriction that cannot be adequately resourced to enable it to be enforced, and which therefore will not manage and meet the community expectations.
- WSCC will be expected to manage the community's expectations in terms of realistic enforcement of the TRO. It is anticipated that community expectations will drive enforcement requests and complaints which WSCC will need to respond to.

The District Council reiterates that approval of Traffic Regulation Orders is West Sussex County Council's responsibility as the decision making body and funding for enforcement of TRO's is

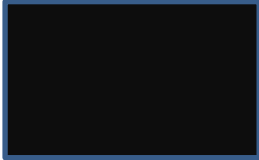
Working together for a better Mid Sussex

Rob Anderton
Divisional Leader Commercial Services & Contracts



WSSC's responsibility and this Council maintains that adequate funding is not available to adequately enforce the Hassocks Parish Councils proposed TRO.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Anderton
Divisional Leader: Commercial Services and Contracts