

THE HASLEMERE SOCIETY



c/o 37 Stoalety Rise,
Haslemere,
GU27 1AG.
6 October 2015.

Planning Dept.,
Waverley Borough Council,
The Burys,
Godalming. By email

Dear Sirs,

Planning Application 2015/1721
M & S Store, Haslemere.

The Haslemere Society regards the proposed alterations as appropriate and an improvement which will enhance the store and the site.

However we wish to bring to your attention, and the attention of SCC Highways some concerns we have consequent to the transfer of the store to M & S ownership (which might not be within the scope of this application).

Wey Hill is a through route (B2131) and bus route from Haslemere to the A3 and beyond and along which most deliveries to the town are made as well as access to the busy station. It is regularly very congested with backing up of traffic to the station and also towards Hindhead. Much of this congestion is caused by parking on the south side between the bus stop and the traffic lights resulting in only one way traffic when vans, buses and HGVs are present on this narrowest part of Wey Hill.

The footpath on the north side at this point is particularly narrow with a dropped kerb affording no protection to pedestrians from the heavy traffic flow. It is potentially dangerous especially for families with young children and the elderly.

The Society considers that street parking at this point should not be allowed and improvements to the kerb/footpath are necessary.

Given the popularity of other M&S stores we expect a significant increase in traffic compared with when it was a Cooperative store which will further impact on Wey Hill and traffic turning at the traffic lights exacerbating the current congestion referred to above. We would urge yourselves and SCC highways to seriously consider remodelling the Lion Lane junction and its traffic light controls to improve traffic flow, as well as removing the currently allowed parking in Wey Hill.

There is no facility for delivery vehicles to turn round in the store car park and consequently delivery vehicles have to reverse into the site. The Coop experience demonstrated how difficult this is for longer and articulated vehicle drivers due to Lion Lane being narrow, the narrow store entrance and its restricted bellmouth splays to Lion Lane. Generally two cars do not pass at the store entrance gate due to its restricted width. Stout timber posts along the edge of Lion Green have been installed by HTC to stop drivers shunting on to the green and churning up the ground.

The Society requests that WBC, HTC and SCC Highways discuss with M & S the widening of the store entrance and the splays to improve the access for delivery vehicles and for shoppers.

A small reduction in the number of parking spaces is proposed. During the Coop occupation there were times when the car park was not adequate resulting in shoppers parking in Lion Lane. It is probable that increased parking will be required by M & S.

Also Lion Lane is very congested daily during picking up and dropping off times at the nearby Shottermill School and many parents park their cars in the store car park and walk to the school exacerbating the store parking inadequacy.

The Society urges WBC, HTC and SCC to seriously consider the required number of store car parking spaces, options for increasing these and the widening of Lion Lane locally to provide parking spaces to facilitate the school collection and drop off. This could also provide additional Wey Hill shoppers' parking and allow the removal of parking on the north side of Wey Hill which is another serious impediment to traffic flow on this main artery in Haslemere.

Yours faithfully,

John Greer (Vice Chairman, The Haslemere Society)

