

15th December 2008

Items for inclusion in SBC's 'Joint Transport Board (JTB)' Meeting on Monday 15th December 2008.

WISER LANE BUS COMMUTER PARKING ISSUES

Background

I am a motorist and have lived in the newer 'Cul de Sac' part of Brier Road for 33 years. About 8 years ago local Coach Companies started commuter services to London, using a Bus Stop located outside the Public House, now called "The Long Hop" and close to the Wises Lane junction with the A2. This has resulted in 5 to 6 vehicles regularly parking on the Eastern side of Wises lane - from around 7am to 7pm every weekday. Many of these vehicles park within 10 meters of BOTH sides of the northern Brier Road - Wises Lane junction, causing dangerous Visual Hazards to drivers turning Right from Brier Road into Wises Lane. I, and others, have been campaigning now for about 8 years - & SBC/ the 'JTB' has shown little concern. KCC Highways have advised me that 3 INJURY ACCIDENTS occurred in the location in the period 2005 - 2007

1/ The CHERRYFIELDS residents Objection to current proposals

Having visited CHERRYFIELDS at 6-35 am GMT on Wednesday 19th November 2008 I found that there were around 12 free parking spaces at the Wises Lane end of this road - the problem is caused by about 6 vehicles! Only 1 car was parked in the problem area. I suspect that cars will park either in Grove Park Avenue, further up Brier Road or more up Wises Lane. I consider that their claims are unjustified.

2/ OTHER SIGNIFICANT FACTORS

a/ During 8 years I have had to consult with:- Mr B Haratbar (Formerly SBC Highways Manager), KCC & it's Highways manager, Borden Parish Council, TWO Local Councillors, Keith Ferrin, a Parish Councillor, The Joint Transport Board, & shortly Kent Police.

NO-ONE IN SBC or the JTB has CO-ORDINATED my concerns !!!

b/ I fail to comprehend why Double Yellow lines - Costing a few £100's, have not been painted on the three junctions near the Hazard years ago ??

c/ SBC & the JTB have made a fundamental ERROR by failing to tackle THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM - They have merely let the consequences of the problem 'Get out of Hand'

d/ Many Houses are now present within a 2km radius of Sittingbourne town centre YET the JTB seems to concentrate its Function within the centre of our Town

3/ CONCLUDING COMMENTS

This "FIASCO" has wasted hours of my time & others and must have cost Council Tax Payers THOUSANDS of pounds.

I SUGGEST THAT THE JTB/SBC GET THE WHOLE ISSUE INVESTIGATED BY A SCRUTINY PANEL - AS LESSONS CAN BE LEARNED !!

Additional comments:

1/ Likely consequences of current JTB Wises Lane Parking Plan

If only ONE single yellow line is painted on the Eastern side of Wises Lane, it is inevitable that the 'Culprits' will merely park on the Western side of the Lane.

When this occurs, Vehicles turning Right, from the relevant Brier Road junction, into Wises Lane will be on the WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD, a mere 35meters from the busy A2 Trunk Road junction.

Between 8 & 9 am, weekdays, this Junction is a NIGHTMARE - especially when turning Right !!

ANOTHER ISSUE

Hazards to Pedestrians, due to Parked Vehicles, on A2 at the REYNOLDS Fitness Centre access 'Drive'

I have had TWO 'near misses', recently, while walking on the Footway in front of these premises.

The problem is caused by Vehicles, including a white 'Transit Van' parking well within 10m of this junction - often on BOTH the East & the West of the access. This causes a serious VISIBLE OBSTRUCTION for BOTH Pedestrians & Drivers.

ALL ACCIDENTS ARE CAUSED BY UNSAFE AS ACTS OR UNSAFE CONDITIONS
(Oil & Chemical Industry H&S Statement) - This Parking constitutes an 'Unsafe Condition'

From :- Mr Platten, Sittingbourne