

Hello to all present at this hearing regarding the ongoing Covid-19 route changes in the Riverside Ward & along Milton Road.

My name is John Colfer & my family & I have lived in the Riverside Ward for 37 years & have seen so many changes, some good & some bad.

I run a local Community Watch which continues to get bigger & when this Covid-19 Road Closures & Route Changes were snuck in without any consultations with us the local residents, I received a great deal of complaints, including from Gravesham Borough Council who were totally Unaware of the road closures made including the Emergency Services, as on the Monday, the 1st working day after the changes had been made, we had both Refuse Trucks & an Ambulance stuck at the junction of Prospect Grove & Norfolk Road!

This is where planters have been placed across the junction so that anyone travelling down Prospect Grove unaware of the closures are forced to either negotiate the 6' 6" Width Restriction, or Reverse back up the length of Prospect Grove or they try to reverse onto the drive of the last home on Prospect Grove & try to do a 3 point turn which is very difficult & dangerous especially with other vehicles that are parked on both sides of Prospect Grove!

Once again today I am in receipt of a small clip off of their CCTV of an Ambulance which cannot get through the Width Restriction & carries out the 3 point turn manoeuvre on their drive with their daughters car parked opposite & this is unacceptable on so many counts!

The dangers that this particular Junction Road Closure has caused could still have catastrophic consequences, vehicles are racing back up Prospect Grove & very often turn into St John's Road which is a very restrictive road & unable to handle the HGV's that find themselves stuck & the only alternative is to renegotiate the junction & Width Restriction at the top of Milton Road, which in turn puts other Motorists & Pedestrians at risk especially with the narrow bridge over the railway, made much worse at peak hours & the traffic jams it causes back as far as the Telephone Exchange & St John's RC School!

The apparent lack of communication from KCC to other Authorities especially the Emergency Services even up until today is very worrying as still having their vehicles in Prospect Grove!

The other proposed road closure that met with a HGV moving planters, the early hours of Monday morning, placed across the road at the junction of Albion Terrace & Russell Road, is still causing issues for local roads as the sign at the junction of Ordnance Road & Albion Terrace is still in place stating no access, but with no diversion signs in place traffic is confused & our local roads which are far too small for the volume of HGV's we currently see now have more HGV's & High Sided Panel Vans stuck in our roads at the various junctions daily!

The biggest concern is that of the Fire Brigade not having immediate access as in the past we have had a house fire at that junction that if this Road closure had been in place then the damage to property's & belongings would have been much worse!

Time is of the utmost in an Emergency & this closure & lack of communication from KCC to other Authorities especially the Emergency Services even up until today is very worrying!

I hope that I have explained the current situation here at the start of the Covid-19 scheme & the dangers continue at the Covid-19 Pop Up Cycle Lanes along Milton Road up as far as Parrock Road, whereby the width of road left for vehicles in particular HGV's is far too Narrow & many near incidents have occurred especial near the junction of the Clock Tower!
The effect it has had on local businesses has been raised & people are parking their cars alongside the posts & quickly popping into the shops, which further adds to the problem of vehicles passing each other!

I have raised the issue with Parking Enforcement & they are patrolling the area when they can!

If you need any more information, I am only happy to help & would have taken part in the Zoom Video Link but sadly, my wife has had a failed operation to rectify Incompetent operations at DVH so need to be here right now.

Many thanks for your time & help & I look forward to hearing the results of this month's hearing.

~~John Collier~~

~~The Shepherd~~

~~41 Suffolk Road~~

~~Gravesend~~

~~Kent~~

~~DA12 2SN~~