

# SUTTON COURT ROAD, UXBRIDGE - PETITION ASKING THE COUNCIL TO HALT THE PLANNED ROAD WORKS

<b>Cabinet Members</b>	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
<b>Cabinet Portfolios</b>	Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport
<b>Officer Contact</b>	Catherine Flew – Place Directorate
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A – General Arrangement Drawing

## HEADLINES

<b>Summary</b>	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received asking for the Council to halt the planned road works in Sutton Court Road, Uxbridge.
<b>Putting our Residents First</b>  <b>Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026</b>	This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: Live in a sustainable borough that is carbon neutral.  This report supports our commitments to residents of: A Thriving Economy
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report.
<b>Relevant Select Committee</b>	Property, Highways and Transport Select Committee.
<b>Relevant Ward</b>	Hillingdon East.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Meets with petitioners and listens to their request for the Council to halt the planned road works in Sutton Court Road, Uxbridge, referring to his previous email exchanges with the lead petitioner;
- 2) Notes that a separate report will be produced concerning the outcome of the recent consultation on the 'Stop and Shop' scheme; and
- 3) Subject to the above, asks officers to review the situation with the central island and parking measures after a period of six to twelve months and report back to the Cabinet Member.

### Reasons for recommendations

The lead petitioner has asked for their petition to be formally heard at a petition hearing meeting.

## Alternative options considered

None at this stage.

## Select Committee comments

None at this stage.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Sutton Court Road Parade is a Council-owned shopping parade within Hillingdon East Ward. Planned public realm improvements as part of the Town Centre & Shopping Parades Initiative (2023/ 2024) are currently underway including:
  - New paving throughout the shopping parade
  - Implementation of a new central boulevard and landscaping, with eight new trees
  - New street lighting with dual lanterns, retaining the ability to hold floral displays and Christmas lights

2. A recent petition with 197 signatures has been submitted to the Council under the following heading:

*“We the undersigned petition Hillingdon Council to immediately stop any road work to be carried out on Sutton Court Road Hillingdon, until the council have fully researched the implications of the planned island. Justification: Hillingdon Council have drawn up plans to restrict the movement on Sutton Court Road. They are planning on erecting an island down the centre of the road. This is being done with no formal consultation. We the shopkeepers feel this will be very dangerous as the road will become blocked every time a large vehicle needs to access the shops (daily). Emergency vehicles will be restricted and it will encourage the students from the nearby secondary school to converge on the island.”*

3. The Cabinet Member has already been in correspondence with the lead petitioner to explain that the Council will never agree to the use of a petition as a blocking tactic to try to stop or prevent a scheme going ahead at the last stage before implementation.
4. The Council also received an earlier petition from the same lead petitioner under the following heading:

*“We the undersigned petition Hillingdon Council to install stop and shop parking meters outside the shops along Sutton Court Road, Hillingdon; to ease congestion, stop issues regarding the constant double and triple parking. Justification: We all know the parking along Sutton Court Road shops is a nightmare. The time has come to make some changes, what with the new school entrance being along the same road, and the new flats replacing the pub on the roundabout. Stopping at the shops for groceries or a loaf of bread can be difficult when there are double and triple parked cars all up and down the parade, making for a very expensive pint of milk if the traffic warden shows up. We urge the community to take into account the safety issues regarding the traffic along the parade also, cars pulling in and out, limited visibility for pedestrians crossing the roads etc., We witness near misses every day”.*

5. Whilst the earlier petition did not receive enough signatures to qualify to be heard by the Cabinet Member at the time, it does highlight safety concerns regarding pedestrians

crossing the wide road amongst double and triple parked vehicles. A further petition requesting a “Stop and Shop” parking scheme to tackle the road safety and parking issues at the Parade was received this Spring:

*“We the undersigned petition Hillingdon Council to install a Stop and Shop Parking Scheme in Sutton Court Parade as part of the Councils regeneration project. Justification: We support the Hillingdon East Councillors request to install a Stop and Shop Parking Scheme in Sutton Court Road as part of the Councils regeneration project”.*

6. The Cabinet Member will note that the recent petition specifically relates to concerns surrounding the new central island yet the earlier petition appears to recognise that double and triple parking is a problem. Such parking is dangerous and illegal and is not something that the Council or Police would sanction in any town centre or shopping parade.
7. The new island also features an additional pedestrian crossing point fronting the parade as well as eight new trees which will not only be aesthetically pleasing but will also contribute towards air quality and improved health benefits for people who live, work and shop along this section of Sutton Court Road.
8. The Council understands the need for loading and unloading in front of the shops and the design caters for this. The Cabinet Member will also be aware that there has been an independent road safety audit to provide reassurance that the design is safe and fit for purpose.
9. The petitioners’ concerns that students from the nearby school will converge on the island are noted. As the Cabinet Member will be aware the island will feature eight new trees as well as new dual lantern lamp columns meaning there will be limited “free” space for students to congregate, although there is no certainty that such a hypothetical situation would ever arise or be a matter of genuine concern. The Council is also working on several fronts to address reports of anti-social behaviour linked to the school including a request to TfL for a new bus service.
10. The Cabinet Member will further recall in a recent email exchange with the lead petitioner, they stated: *“I still require a meeting which is my democratic right, as I feel you are not really fully understanding what the problem is. This has nothing to do with pay to park.”* The recent consultation on the ‘Stop & Shop’ scheme will be subject to a separate report to the Cabinet Member.
11. To conclude, in view of the submission of this petition, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member meets with the petitioners to listen to their concerns surrounding the road works at Sutton Court Road Parade and if appropriate asks officers to review the situation with the central island and parking measures after a period of six to twelve months.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report.

## **RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION**

### **The benefit or impact upon residents, service users and communities**

To allow the Cabinet Member to meet with and listen to the petitioners' concerns.

### **Consultation carried out or required**

Information letter delivered to the businesses of Sutton Court Parade and 1065 residential properties mid-June 2023.

Statutory notice of intent – Sutton Court Road, Hillingdon Proposed Stop & Shop Parking Scheme – 28 June 2023.

## **CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate Finance has reviewed the recommendations to this report and concurs with the financial implications as set out above.

### **Legal**

Legal Services confirm that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

### **Infrastructure/ Asset Management**

Not applicable.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Petition received.

## **APPENDIX A**

Appendix A – General Arrangement Drawing