

Catherine Vaughan – Acting Chief Executive
Brighton & Hove City Council
King's House

14th November 2012

Dear Catherine

Loading Restrictions

I am writing to request that this letter be placed on the agenda for the Transport Committee meeting of 27th November under Council Procedure Rule 23.3.

It has come to my attention that, in early November 2011, the traders in Western Rd Hove were made aware of a proposed change in loading times on the northern side of the road. This was to be implemented on the north side only - not the south. I am also aware that the traders feel that there were several reasons behind this decision, for instance, the cost of maintaining signage on both sides of the road, potential confusion caused to motorists, not wanting to clutter the pavement on the south side etc.

However, following the submission of a Freedom of Information request, the traders now believe that the real reason for the proposed changes on the north side only, was that the introduction on both sides of the street at the same time would have triggered the requirement for a public consultation. I believe that the traders have in their possession an email from the Lead Commissioner - City Regulation & Infrastructure to Cllr. Ian Davey confirming this.

At a meeting in January 2012 with Cllr. Davey, I am told that the traders warned that not only were the proposals damaging to their businesses, but would also be very dangerous for many of the staff employed in the area. Now it has been implemented, any trader requiring a restock before 10 am is forced to park on the opposite side of the street, which has no restrictions, and then make repeated journeys carrying heavy items through traffic. Also, at the end of each day, when deliveries are made, they must again cross the busy road.

I understand that the traders also have in their possession, from another Freedom of Information request, a communication that appears to indicate that no risk assessment had been carried out before the loading restrictions were imposed - an email states that officers did not think it necessary.

Given that there has been at least one serious accident along this stretch of road I believe that a review of the system of implementing loading restrictions is now required. I would therefore request that this Committee agrees to ask officers for a report on to how the current system is working and what, if anything, can be done to improve it and to make life easier for the many local traders in the city who rely upon regular and timely deliveries to carry out their business.

With all good wishes

Tony Janio - Councillor Hangleton and Knoll

