

As discussed with yourself yesterday, I would like to raise my concerns about the removal of the social distancing barriers in June 2021.

Pre-Covid, I had applied for planning permission to alter the entire front of Shere Delights to open out the doorway to allow for better access in and out of the shop, to limit congestion around the doorway and hopefully limit the amount of people gathering and spilling out on to the roadside and bridge as they are known to do.

Although planning permission was granted, I was only allowed to carry out the works involved in wood due to the conservation area restrictions. This made the whole project prohibitively expensive and unaffordable sadly.

Since the social distancing barriers have been in place, customers have been able to queue uniformly and safely on the roadside allowing for the free movement of residents and visitors alike up and down the pavement.

Given that we can expect to see an increased number of visitors this summer than ever before due to people not travelling abroad, I am deeply concerned about the safety of pedestrians on the bridge, and in particular around the entrance to my shop.

Whilst we now have yellow lines outside the shop which will mean no parking, I fear that this will encourage drivers to use this space to pull in when faced with an oncoming car coming over the bridge which will put pedestrians at even greater risk than normal.

As we discussed, this is an issue to be raised with Surrey County Council Highways dept which I have contacted directly.

I would, however, ask that the Parish take note of my concerns and perhaps support me in my plight to improve the safety of this bottleneck and accident hotspot in the village.

I personally would propose putting some pretty planters along the sightline of the existing social distancing barriers for the length of the yellow lines. This would stop cars pulling in and provide a natural obstruction for speeding cars and cyclist.

Whilst I concede that this perhaps not the remit of the Parish council, I would like to see if there is anything that can be done before summer is upon us and barriers are removed.

thanks as always

Gillian Akroyd

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