



## Leatherhead *AHEAD*

Moving our town forward together

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The Editor  
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Dear Editor

It seems that in regard to 'access and parking', Leatherhead is going round in circles.

In the past, the High Street was totally pedestrianised by Surrey County Council with the result that people stopped coming to Leatherhead and trade plummeted.

In 1996, the Chamber of Commerce maintained that "re-introducing traffic to the town centre is an important part of its plan to revitalize Leatherhead". A compromise was then made to only pedestrianise the High Street between 10am and 4.30pm, to keep most people happy.

Leatherhead Ahead, before the Leatherhead Tomorrow project, campaigned for improvement to access and parking in Leatherhead. Later, the Leatherhead Tomorrow project, in which I originally took part, consulted many users of Leatherhead and the resulting report showed that residents wanted clear demarcation between traffic and pedestrians in the High Street with clear signs where parking is allowed – no-one asked for new waiting restrictions.

Despite the report, and with hardly any consultation with residents, SCC have again effectively closed the High Street by not allowing residents and visitors to park there between 8am and 6.30pm.

However, again, the traders are reported as saying that "continuing to pedestrianise Leatherhead High Street for large parts of the day will "kill off the town"".

Back in June and August 2006, Leatherhead Ahead proposed that the new waiting restrictions should be from 10 am to 4.30pm (the 'compromise' hours), which would have removed the parked cars during the day when the High Street was supposed to be pedestrianised, but would have still enabled residents to 'pop and shop'.

A review of the waiting restriction hours is due to take place shortly.

Despite various people in the town insisting that we should only look forwards and not backwards, it is critical to the future of Leatherhead that lessons are learnt from history. The 'compromise' needs to be re-instated but this time with the traffic and pedestrian demarcation as requested by residents.

Yours sincerely

Paula Sabine  
Chairman  
Leatherhead *AHEAD*