

Various Orders Basildon Town Centre

A consultation was carried out between the 08 April 2021 and 30 April 2021. Objections/Support/Comments summarised as per below

Comment Type	Comment	Response
<p>Resident/Business Owners Basildon</p> <p>Objections received by Email: 13/04/2021 to 30/04/2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I OBJECT, To just allowing bus gate / lane access for just taxis and not Basildon Private Hire Vehicles, A&B, Value Cars. All Basildon bus gates should be open to Basildon's Private Hire Vehicles. (14 Objectors) Extra emissions used by going the long way round I work these streets every day, and have done for 15 years as a professional cab driver, so I speak from experience. To force us to go the long way around is in my opinion, neither safer, greener or healthier. The bus gate is never a busy area anyway, so a few private hire taxis passing through will not affect it. We play a huge roll in getting the public from A to B and I feel that we are being treated like second-class citizens. Our service is just as important as buses, and any other public service. I hope this reflects in your decision. PLEASE SUPPORT THE LOCAL TAXI SERVICE Without use of this bus gate, almost every single customer we take to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bus lane and gates proposed to be introduced were designed in accordance with The Essex Traffic Management Strategy. This policy sets out that the standard vehicles with permitted exemptions to travel through these features are Buses, Taxis (Hackney Carriages), Motorcycles and Pedal Cycles. This approach is applied across the entirety of Essex, except in specific circumstances where there is a local need for fewer or additional vehicles to be permitted. If you wish to object to the proposal on these grounds, please provide confirmation of your grounds for this objection, and why specifically in this location you feel this applies. Your objection will be included in a report to the Cabinet Member who has authority for the Basildon Town Centre Scheme and will determine whether to approve that the Traffic Regulation Order is made as advertised. If you wish to raise this as a wider issue across Basildon, please contact your local county Councillor, who may be able to raise this via the Local Highway Panel.

	<p>town centre will now be charged extra because of the re-routing of traffic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A perfect example is the Ghyllgrove bus link, this has always allowed access to private hire vehicles and gives our customers a shorter journey to the Festival Leisure Park and other industrial/retail parks. By stopping Private Hire drivers using the bus gate in Southernhay you could even cost us customers, which would be devastating, especially at this time. • The bus gate/lane states taxis only (Hackney Carriages) and not authorised vehicles (Private Hires) so Private Hire vehicles aren't allowed through, however where it states "no stopping except taxis" on this layby Private Hire vehicles are now incorporated into the definition of "taxis". This opens up the possible confusion by drivers with your definition of "taxis" for the bus gate/lane as they differ, Private Hire vehicles are incorporated into one definition and not the other. As the layby is intended to be for the use of both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles and to ensure clarity, I would suggest that the wording on the signs at this location and on the TRO should also include "and authorised vehicles". 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I OBJECT, To the anti-clockwise road layout change at Cherrydown east. (13 Objectors) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changes to the previous clockwise one-way road layout at Clay Hill Road/Cherrydown East/Station Way/Southernhay will enable the formation of a new sustainable transport hub / transit mall to make the area more attractive and accessible and deter unnecessary traffic from the town centre and will have a positive impact on the town centre. <p>The change of traffic flow on the aforementioned loop from one-way traffic flow to two-way traffic flow for all vehicles will also allow vehicles to travel west to east and east to west without conflicting with the transport hub.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I OBJECT, To just taxi access to ASDA drop off / pick up lay-by (24 Objectors) • Our particular company pay considerable monies to Asda to have a customer Freephone inside the shop, and we also had a Freephone at the exit of the East gate mall for over 20 years to direct our clients to the vehicles. There is absolutely no other convenient point that end of the Eastgate mall where these customers can be collected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The layby alongside the Asda store on Southernhay will remain as a Taxi pick up, drop off point. It is possible that confusion was caused by the wording of the Intention Notice. This is because all previous notice of use must first be revoked or cleared in order for the new intended use to be notified to the public. Below are the three parts of the notice that concern this area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>To revoke the existing No Stopping at Any Time except Taxis & Authorised Vehicles on the NORTH SIDE of Southernhay, Basildon, from a point approximately 209 metres east of its junction with the eastern kerb line of Clay Hill Road, east for approximately 30 metres.</i>

		<p>This is where the Taxis (both Hackney Carriages and Private Hire) used to pull up for their customers; this is where the Bus Stop (as below) will now be located.</p> <p><i>b. To relocate the existing bus stop which is currently located on Southernhay, Basildon in the NORTH SIDE layby, from a point approximately 141.3 metres east of the eastern kerb line of Clay Hill Road, east for approximately 49.2 metres. The bus stop will be now be located approximately 20.8 metres further east and will be approximately 17.3 metres in length.</i></p> <p>This is giving notice that the bus stop will move to the area where the Taxis used to pick up.</p> <p><i>c. To Introduce No Stopping except Taxis, on Southernhay, Basildon in the NORTH SIDE layby, from a point approximately 141.3 metres east of the eastern kerb line of Clay Hill Road, east for approximately 49.2 metres.</i></p> <p>This is to notify the new use of the layby that was once used by the buses. This will still be for the use of both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire.</p> <p>The improvements to the taxi and bus laybys outside Asda on Southernhay have been proposed to improve safety for taxi users and enable buses to merge into the traffic flow more efficiently, this has always been the intention and will remain so, it is generally understood that this is the most convenient placement of this service for both customers and the taxis collecting passengers.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rail replacement bays on the south side of Southernhay – the project removed other layover and rail replacement bays – the eastern group of ‘taxi bays’ could go some way towards remedying this. Surely unless the order refers to buses being able to use the bays, then they lay themselves open to confrontation by SEPP etc if found using them – whether as rail replacement or by another cause? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a discussion regarding the issue of bus replacement service, and it was decided that there was no restriction suitable to facilitate both Taxis and a bus replacement service, and as there are a number of public transport options available very close by, that the bays could be used on an ad hoc basis when required and not under a permanent order.
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