



15th November 2018

Dear Leader / Helper

HEYSWOOD - CHANGE OF ACCESS - URGENT!

We are seeking your support to help us get a revised plan for the new access to Heyswood to be right for us. We appreciate we are all busy people, but we would ask that you take the time to read the information below and support us by writing and sending in your concerns. Consultation closes on 14th December 2018.

BACKGROUND

Highways England are planning to improve the A3/M25 junction. The impact of this for Heyswood is that the current access from the A3 will be blocked off so Highways England (HE) are consulting on alternative access proposal.

The current proposal (devised by Atkins on behalf of Highways England) is for the access to our property via a left-hand slip road from the Painshill Roundabout to the A3 southbound. This new two-way track comes to our campsite at the far end by the current gas station. It then goes along our existing track, but is made wider to a width of 4.8 metres to allow two-way traffic severing our site into two. They propose to fence both sides of the road so we would need possibly four access gates on our site and a further two on the woodland area if we were to continue owning this land. This track would then go on to both the current neighbouring property and be an access route for Painshill Park to their Gothic Tower (predominantly for maintenance or emergency access).

As part of Girlguiding we are very committed to protecting the environment. At the campsite we are able to train girls to learn about and care for the natural environment.

Atkins have deemed that we would only lose 0.76 hectares. However, we believe the loss will be greater (up to 5 acres) when the implications of the proposal are considered.

Our preferred option is that the new road runs alongside the A3 when it reaches our site so that we maintain a safe site, with minimal view for the public that use the access road and continued easy access for the girls to the ancient woodland (most of which would remain), as well as our loss of land would be minimal.

Heyswood Points for Leaders/Helpers

Our major concerns are safety and safeguarding issues as well as the loss of access to our ancient woodland.

A two-way road through the site would result in the area to the north-west of this road would not be accessible to us.

There would need to be a high fence with only one gate access on either side to keep the girls secure.

The proximity of the new two-way road to the camping area is a serious safeguarding concern. Currently drivers along the A3 are not aware of the girls camping as they are not visible from the road. The proposed two-way road would be so close to the camping area, where girls are in tents, that the girls would be visible and therefore at high risk.

All the buildings and the orienteering course will need to be moved to the south-east side of the road. This includes the warden's cottage as otherwise it would be off site and the purpose of on-site warden is for security and emergency support to leaders and girls.

The north east side of the road (woodland) would no longer be readily accessible to the girls. The girls would need to be escorted across the road, rather than be allowed to go on their own or in small groups. There are no toilet facilities in that area, so girls would need to be escorted back to the main campsite across the road if they needed to use the toilet. This would split the leadership team if in the middle of an activity.

The two-way traffic road will involve the removal of trees that are currently alongside our internal track. These currently both visually screen the camping area and provide a sound barrier.

Currently cars park between the trees along the track as well as in the car park - both by those staying at the site and on a temporary basis by those dropping off or collecting girls from the site. We would no longer have this option.

A new track for access to BP Lodge, West Hut and East Hut would need to be made within the south-east area

We are effectively losing, not 0.76 hectares as suggested by Atkins but approximately 5 acres when you take into consideration the loss of the land on our remaining site to relocate things:

- new track for access to BP Lodge, West Hut and East Hut - this would need to be inside our current main camping area
- divert sewage from the main cess pit to either our smaller cess pit that would need to be enlarged or a new replacement cess pit
- car park that will need to be larger than the current one as we will no longer be able to park between the trees - this would need to be in the area between the current wet suit store, West Hut and BP Lodge. It would need to be fenced off as near the campsite.
- Warden's cottage & garden sheds - these would need to move to near where the wet suit store and West Hut are currently located
- garage - move to the new warden's cottage location
- tool shed - move to be adjacent to the Coronation Hut
- shop & games shed - move to closer to the Activity Centre
- relocate West Hut to corner of field towards Painshill
- relocate wet suits shelter to within pool area, base required
- planting area of new trees along the widened access road to screen our remaining site
- relocating the concrete fireplaces for campsites 1, 2 & 3

The costs of all these relocations will be high.

We will have a reduced and therefore less challenging orienteering course.

We will lose camping sites 25 & 26, maybe more when we relocate the above.

The impact will not only be less camping area, but severe reduction in the size of our large flat field (most popular for all the big events as it is where we can have large marquees/big tops etc). This means we would not be able to accommodate so many people at events - and would reduce our income.

The maintenance and security costs will be higher with a public road adjacent to the site.

We really feel that this proposal is unworkable. The woodland area would be impracticable for us to use if the proposed new road divides our site. Our alternative proposal is for the two-way road to go round the campsite, as mentioned above. This would mean a small loss of ancient woodland but it would leave the majority of it accessible to the girls and leaders for continued use.

Our alternative proposal would be far safer than the current proposal from Highways England (Atkins). We feel that our alternative proposal will balance functionality with achieving positive environmental outcomes.

REQUEST TO LEADERS/HELPERS

Please support us and make your views known by **responding to the consultation**. You can provide your feedback on any aspect of the changes by emailing:

info@highwaysengland.co.uk

or by writing to them at:

FREEPOST
M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley interchange

N.B. Please note that you should not copy this information sheet, but write your view in your own words. If all the letters are the same, then it is deemed a petition which does not have the same weight as individual ones.

It would be helpful, to give us an overall picture, if you can let your local commissioner or me know when you have sent in your concerns to Highways England.

Thanking you in anticipation of your support.

Christine Donovan

County Commissioner - Greater London West
cc@girlguiding-glw.org.uk