

13 November 2025

We are affected by the proposed Stopping Up Order by Test Valley Borough Council and object on the following grounds, especially Highway Safety.

My husband and I live in Chantry Lodge on the fourth floor and look directly onto Lidl's Car Park and the Bus Station. Since we moved here 8 years ago, we have already seen an increase in traffic, noise, and pollution. We have had to put up with endless disturbances caused by buses breaking down and backing out of the bus station from early morning until late at night, as well as the air-conditioned lorries delivering to Waitrose and other shops day and night. We have watched with horror car drivers entering Lidl's car park by the exit entrance and witnessed irate drivers shouting a lot of verbal abuse at each other. We also watch the large numbers of children and college students on their way to the Leisure Centre and Sixth Form College. They walk in large groups paying no heed to the traffic on the present system, usually on their mobile 'phones and listening to their music on headphones. They have no inkling of what's going on around them, and we feel sure there will be accidents waiting to happen. We dread to think what it would be like for them with a two-way traffic system. The parents of these young people line up outside our building to pick them up early evenings around 5 p.m. because there is nowhere else for them to do so. The intention is to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph which unfortunately many drivers do not comply to.

We find it difficult enough to turn left onto the main road from Chantry Street, let alone cross two lanes of traffic. When there was recent roadworks on Western Avenue the traffic and congestion took a long time to clear. Only last week I was returning home from Tidworth on the Active 8 bus about 5.30 p.m. when we were diverted down Western Avenue to be dropped off outside the Unity Office. There were flashing blue lights and a fire engine blocking the road in West Street by the Leisure Centre because of an electrical fault/fire in Lidl's Store. The road was closed for some hours, as my husband found when he tried to go out by car at 6.45 p.m. He had to go on foot in the end and be picked up by a friend beside the multi-storey car park in Western Avenue. Those of us who live in Chantry Lodge were completely cut off. If there had been an emergency here in our lodge, no emergency services like ambulances, fire engines or police vehicles would have been able to get through.

We have also noticed how difficult it is for those living opposite us in Portland Grove who already find it hard enough to turn right into the moving traffic. They will have no hope at all if it should become a two-way system. I heard one of those residents tell us at one of our many meetings that she had given up using her car to go to work and now travels by bus because of these difficulties. Although they are proposing to make the road wider for the two-way traffic, this will greatly reduce the pavement width for

pedestrians which contravenes their own planning decision to remove a loading bay

and make the pavement wider. This was done only about 5 years ago when the units that were supposed to be shops were made into more apartments on the ground floor.

Please take the above objections into consideration.