

13 November 2026

I am affected by the proposed Stopping Up Orders on West Street and Western Avenue, Andover by Test Valley Borough Council and object on the following grounds:

Having attended a number of meetings regarding the River Side Park Scheme and proposed changes to the road layout, it has become quite clear that the development of Western Avenue is not dependant on the stopping up order on West Street and Western Avenue. The scheme is quite capable of going ahead without it and all the disruption, added traffic, noise, pollution, danger, and queues it will bring.

By changing West Street to two way traffic, this will have a detrimental impact on the residents amenity, with a significant increase in traffic (doubling up affectively), including a large volume of buses which currently enter West Street to the bus station and then exit out onto Western Avenue, cars/taxis dropping people off at the bus station (in particular students who then make their way to Peter Symonds and Sparsholt Colleges), all traffic that currently enters into Lidl, not to mention the heavy good vehicles which drop off and pick up at Waitrose and Lidl (currently all HGVs for Lidl do not use West Street having their own provisions to facilitate this). In addition, there are the vehicles that go in and out of Portland Grove. Already a very busy area with residents parking, visitors, and deliveries. Another very real concern is how emergency services vehicles would get in and out of West Street quickly and smoothly. Chantry Lodge for example houses a large number of elderly residents and ambulances and cars used by district nurses are often parked nearby. Only the other day we had a suspected gas leak in Portland Grove, and a gas van was parked in the Grove and a Fire Engine was parked opposite along West Street and next to Chantry Lodge. It was there for some time and created a large queue of traffic. This has the potential to become grid lock if we make all the traffic loop and come back out of West Street. What would happen if we then needed other emergency vehicles on site? All of this extra traffic within West Street will have a detrimental impact on the residents of Portland Grove and Chantry Lodge. Surely this would justify refusing this order on these grounds alone?

The development proposal is supposed to enhance the amenity in the area, and as far as I can see it does not do so. This could still be achieved in other ways which are not only at a much lower cost but by retaining the current traffic layout in West Street and Western Avenue.

Currently there are taxi bays next to the bus station which assists people coming into the town centre, making use of the shops, bus station and supermarket. By removing these there will be a net loss of parking which I feel should be taken into consideration and weighed against the proposed development of the new Riverside Park, which actually encourages people out of the town centre, not in it.

I would be grateful if you could please take these objections on board.