

Highway statement re 59 Leigh Road, Eastleigh

The following statement sets out the highway implications of the proposed change of use of 59 Leigh Road to that of a community centre.

The site is located in a highly sustainable location close to Eastleigh Town Centre which includes a wide range of shopping facilities and amenities and an extensive public transport network.

The proposal seeks to meet the needs of the well-established local community. At present they rent facilities on Friday afternoons at the neighbouring Cranbury Centre for prayer meetings, which last approximately 1 hour.

However, the existing facilities are inadequate to meet the needs of the community and the opportunity has arisen to provide permanent accommodation at 59 Leigh Road. This will allow the provision of enhanced facilities to include the following:

- Education services
- Community support sessions
- Book clubs
- Health activities
- Counselling sessions
- Meetings
- Hall hire.
- Children's play
- Place of worship

The proposed use has the opportunity for on-site car parking, with some three spaces provided to the front of the existing building and three to its rear – providing the opportunity of six in total.

The site is located in close proximity to the centre of Eastleigh and within 500m of the Eastleigh Bus Depot and Eastleigh Railway Station (which is on the main Southampton-London railway line).

The site is therefore located in a highly sustainable location and in walking distance of the local railway station and local bus network.

The site is also located within a Residents Parking Zone, that allows for parking within designated parking spaces for either permit holders or non-permit holders for up to two hours during specified hours.

The central location of the proposed community centre is ideal. The community group is well-established and it is clear that some 80% of attendees live within 500m of the application site. For the vast majority of these residents there is clearly the opportunity of walking to the community centre, without relying on the motor car.

For the remainder, i.e. those attendees who live outside the immediate catchment area for some there will be the opportunity of use public transport to access the site.