

Report to: Andy Smith Head of Transport and Infrastructure

Date: 6th September 2020

Report of: Tom Hayward – Parking Consultant

**THE BOROUGH OF WATFORD
(OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2019
(AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDER 2020**

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is:

1.1.1 To inform the Head of Transport and Infrastructure of the need to implement the proposal, which forms the subject of the above Off Street Parking Place (OSPP) Order.

1.1.2 To seek authorisation to publish a “Notice of Proposals” and:

- a) where no objections are received or where objections are subsequently withdrawn “Make” the OSPP Order and implement the proposal and:
- b)where objections are received and not subsequently withdrawn, report the details of the objections together with Officer’s recommendations so that further instructions can be obtained.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Head of Transport and Infrastructure authorises all as described in paragraphs 1.1.2 above.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact:

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3.0 DETAILED PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Watford Borough Council has developed a new sports, play and leisure facility on land north of the River Colne in Oxhey Park called Oxhey Activity Park. The development includes a café with a riverside terrace, toilets with changing facilities, a toddler and junior play area, improved walking and cycling routes through the park to include disabled access, recreation facilities for skateboarding, scooters, blading, mountain bikes and BMX. It will also see a creation of wetland areas in the park and improvements to the River Colne corridor.

A new car park has also been created to accommodate users of the Activity Park due to its location away from the main residential area of Oxhey. The car park currently accommodates 8 standard and 6 disabled spaces and there are currently no restrictions or charges in place to use it.

The car park has become incredibly popular and the standard spaces are often full. Some drivers have been witnessed reverting to using the disabled spaces as there is no other available parking in the area and they are often readily available.

3.2 Proposals

It is proposed that parking controls are introduced in the Oxhey Activity Park car park to ensure vehicles cannot simply be left here all day and to ensure that the disabled spaces are being used by blue badge holders only throughout the day.

It is also proposed to reduce the amount of disabled spaces from 6 to 4 as they are currently regularly underutilised and therefore to increase the standard spaces from 8 to 10. This increase in capacity of standard spaces will help to ensure that there is more availability of standard spaces for the high demand seen since the Activity Park opened whilst retaining enough disabled spaces to encourage blue badge holders to utilise the facility.

It is proposed that the car park will mirror The Activity Parks opening hours of 07:00am to 19:00pm and there will be a maximum stay time of 4 hours. The car park will remain free of charge.

It is proposed to amend the existing 'The borough of Watford (off-street parking places) order 2019' to include the proposed restrictions stated above at Oxhey Activity Park Car Park.

Cllr Tim Williams Portfolio Holder for Client Services – Fully supports the proposals.

These restrictions will be inserted as an amendment to the existing Watford Off Street Parking Places Order 2019.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 The cost of the schemes is estimated at £1000.

4.1.2 The Head of Transport and Infrastructure has confirmed there is a sufficient capital budget in WAB971X2029

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Oxhey Activity Park is not part of the Adopted Public Highway and is on private land owned by Watford Borough Council therefore we have not had to consult Hertfordshire County Council as part of the Off Street Parking Place Order delivery process.

Therefore Watford Borough Council proposes to make this Off Street Parking Places Order by exercising its powers conferred by Sections 32, 35 and 35A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the 1984 Act") and Schedule 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1991 ("the 1991 Act") and in accordance with the provisions of Part 6 of The Traffic Management Act 2004 and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the 1984 Act

4.2.2 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that if the recommendation is approved then the necessary statutory procedure will require consultation and may lead to a public inquiry should any objections not be resolved.

4.3 **Equalities**

4.3.1 This scheme aims to improve road safety and amenity for vehicles and pedestrians, thus paying regard to the council's duty according to the Equality Act 2010 as set out below.

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

4.3.2 Any impact as a result of the scheme will be equal to all parties.

4.3.3

4.3.4 A generic Equalities Impact Analysis has been carried out for parking schemes which has been considered and approved by the Equalities Working Group. It is available to view on the Council's website.

Whilst 2 disabled spaces will be converted into standard spaces as part of this proposed order; they are currently under utilised therefore it is felt that retaining 4 disabled spaces in the car park is sufficient for current demand.

4.4 Potential Risks

4.4.1	Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall score
	Some members of the public/businesses will perceive parking controls in this car park as an unnecessary imposition by the Council.	2	1	3
	Failure to implement new parking controls at Oxhey Activity Park will result in the continued abuse of disabled spaces and a lack of turnover of standard spaces throughout the day.	4	4	6

Appendices

Appendix A Plans of proposals

Background Papers

Copies of:
 The "Draft Order"
 A statement of reasons for this Order.

NOTIFICATION OF OFFICER DECISION

**THE BOROUGH OF WATFORD
(OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2019
(AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDER 2020**

Decision Summary

1. That a "Notice of Proposal" is published and for those proposals where no objections are received or where objections are subsequently withdrawn "Make" the OSPP Order and implement the proposals.
2. Where objections are received and not subsequently withdrawn, report the details of the objections together with Officer's recommendations so that further instructions can be obtained.

Name of Officer exercising delegated authority:

Andy Smith: Head of Transport and Infrastructure

Signature:

Date:**XXX** 2020