

**Report to:** Andy Smith Head of Transport and Infrastructure

**Date:** 16th February 2021

**Report of:** Tom Hayward – Parking Consultant

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**THE BOROUGH OF WATFORD  
(OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2019  
(AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) ORDER 2021**

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 where no objections are received or where objections are subsequently withdrawn “Make” the OSPP Order and implement the proposal and:
- b) ....where objections are received and not subsequently withdrawn, report the details of the objections together with Officer’s recommendations so that further instructions can be obtained.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

**Tom Hayward**

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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 10 standard and 4 disabled spaces and restrictions were recently introduced (in December 2020) via The Borough of Watford (Off Street Parking Places) 2019 (Amendment No.2) Order 2020 to ensure a turnover of spaces throughout the day.

The car park has continued to be incredibly popular since the recent restrictions were introduced and is often full to capacity throughout the day. The Council has therefore decided to further extend the car park to increase capacity to 31 standard spaces and 4 disabled spaces.

### 3.2 Proposals

It is proposed that further parking controls are introduced in the Oxhey Activity Park car park to cover the newly extended area and to ensure the following;

- Vehicles cannot be left here all day
- There is space for visitors requiring shorter stays
- Encourage turnover of spaces throughout the day
- Disabled spaces are used by blue badge holders only throughout the day.
- Increase supply of spaces to meet demand

The intention is to revoke the previous Amendment (No.2) to The Borough of Watford (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2019 and introduce a further Amendment (No.3) covering the entire car park to include the newly extended area. The proposed Amendment (No.3) will include the following provisions:

#### Capacity

It is proposed to retain the same amount of disabled spaces (4) as they are still underutilised at times and also to increase the standard spaces from 14 to 31. This increase in capacity of standard spaces will help to ensure that there is more availability of standard spaces to match the high demand seen since the Activity Park opened whilst retaining enough disabled spaces to encourage blue badge holders to utilise the facility.

### Opening Hours + Maximum Stay

It is proposed that the car park will remain open between 07:00am to 19:00pm and there will be a maximum stay time of 4 hours similar to the current restrictions.

### Charging

A charging regime is now proposed to encourage a higher turnover of spaces during peak visiting times and to further dissuade long stay parking. The charges proposed are as follows;

0-1 hour	=	No Charge
0-2 hours	=	£2.00
0-3 hours	=	£4.00
0-4 hours	=	£6.00

No objections have been raised by any of the statutory consultees.

## 4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

### 4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 The cost of the schemes is estimated at £5000.

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 are not obliged to consult Hertfordshire County Council (as the Highway Authority) as part of the Off Street Parking Place Order delivery process (although we have done out of courtesy).

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 by providing off street parking facilities, 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 A generic Equalities Impact Analysis has been carried out for The Oxhey Activity Park which is available to view upon request.

4.3.3 The Equalities Impact of the scheme is deemed to be Low. Any impact as a result of the scheme will be equal to all users.

### 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.	3	1	<b>3</b>
	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. This may cause further issues on the surrounding Public Highway in the vicinity.	4	4	<b>16</b>

## 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. 3) ORDER 2021**

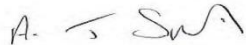
**Decision Summary**

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: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021