

Questions by Members of the Council under Procedure Rule 10.0

Council – 18 October 2021

Question from Councillor Bell Received on 13 October 2021

Question:

Can we be reassured that local residents to the Hospital already suffering from lack of parking will be included in any plans for using parking spaces from the 157 available from the new build multi-storey car park at the Hospital.

While of course staff and patients families will be prioritised we hope local families can be helped at least at times when less staff will be using it.

Answer:

The new multi-storey car park is being built by West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust (WHHT) so the primary use is for patients, staff and visitors to Watford General Hospital. Improving parking facilities at the hospital is a priority area for the Trust, given the current parking at the site.

The new car park comprises of 1,455 spaces in total, with the Riverwell JV (the partnership between Watford Borough Council and Kier Property) having control of 165 of these spaces.

Of these 165 spaces, a floor comprising 78 spaces is being sublet to Watford FC for their exclusive use for staff, match day and event parking. Part of the rationale for these spaces to be included in the overall number was to cater for Watford FC as the current car parking available to them is being included in the overall Riverwell site. The remainder of the spaces are being built to enable future occupiers of the Riverwell development to use. Catering for them within the car park reduces the potential for these occupiers to try to park on surrounding roads.

There has been careful thought and planning given to the future use of the multi-storey car park and this means there is likely to be opportunities for local residents to utilise the car park at times when there is less demand (for example at night when fewer staff are using it). The council is, therefore, working with the Trust and the occupiers of Riverwell to explore options.