

Report to: Andy Smith, Senior Transport and Infrastructure Projects Officer

Date: 28th March 2022

Report of: Tom Hayward – Traffic Consultant

**THE BOROUGH OF WATFORD (CALLOWLAND, WATFORD)
(CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE NA)
ORDER 2020 (AMMENDMENT) ORDER 2022**

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is:

To consider the objections received to the Notice of Proposal published in relation to the above titled proposed Order and to recommend a course of action on how to progress with this scheme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Senior Transport and Infrastructure Projects Officer authorises the implementation of the above-named Order, as proposed in the Notice of Proposal advertised on 25th February 2022.

3.0 BACKGROUND/REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council has considered the objections raised during the statutory Traffic Regulation Order Consultation advertised between 25th February & 18th March 2022. During this period notices were placed on site, in the local press and delivered to each property within the proposed Permit Parking Area, as required under the Local Authorities Traffic Order Procedures Regulations 1996.

3.1 It is not considered that the objections received (2) are enough to prevent the scheme from being implemented as proposed. The Council must consider that residents voted on whether they supported the proposals during the informal consultation where 74% of residents who responded voted in favour of extending the Permit Parking Area between the hours of Mon-Sat 8am-10am and 5pm-10pm.

Local members and the portfolio holder have indicated that they support the proposals, as set out during the statutory public consultation. All other stakeholders including Hertfordshire Police and Hertfordshire County Council have indicated that they have no objections to the proposals.

Further details of the specific objection points raised during the statutory consultation period for the above titled order, as well as the Council's response to these objections are contained in Section 5.0 of this report.

4.0 DETAILED PROPOSALS

4.1 The proposals are related to the extension of the timings of operation of the Controlled Parking Zone/Permit Parking Area in the Callowland Ward of Watford from Mon-Sat 8am – 10am & 7pm – 10pm to **Mon-Sat 8am – 10am & 5pm – 10pm**. It also includes:

- The provision of a new Electric (and Hybrid) vehicle charging bay in Salisbury Road and amending existing no waiting at any time restrictions to suit.
- Amending the times for the disabled bays in the roads that adjoin St Albans Road - to put a time limit of 3 hours (no return within an hour) in place to encourage turnover of spaces.
- Amending the times of the limited waiting bay at the south-eastern end of Leavesden Road to reflect the new permit parking permitted hours and dissuade permit holders from parking in the short stay bay utilised by customers of local businesses.
- Amending the cost of the permits (to £25 & £55 matching current prices) and increase visitor permit provision now the permitted hours are to be extended.
- Adding in provision for the issue of Motor Trader permits

4.2 Proposals

Watford Borough Council introduced the Callowland (Zone NA) Permit Parking Area (PPA) in January 2021, following an 18-month consultation process with residents and businesses. The findings of this consultation clearly showed that, although there was a majority in favour of the Council's proposals, some residents did not agree with the proposed operational hours of the Zone. The Council therefore committed to reviewing the operational hours of the Zone six months after it came into operation.

The Council undertook parking surveys in early September 2021 - after the school summer holidays when parking patterns were more likely to be in line with those experienced throughout the year - to understand the demand and occupancy levels within the zone. The following conclusions were drawn from the survey results;

- Overnight occupancy levels were high at 95% on average throughout the zone, which can predominantly be attributed to residents.
- The surveys also indicated that the operational hours of Mon-Sat 8am-10am and 7pm-10pm appeared to be working in reducing commuter parking, with average occupancy levels dropping from 95% overnight to 70% throughout the day.
- Occupancy levels naturally began to rise back to their overnight averages across the zone from 5pm.

Taking the survey results into account, as well as a number of requests from residents to extend the hours of the zone, the Council decided to undertake further engagement with residents and businesses within the Zone to understand the following:

1. Whether they were content with the current Zone NA operational hours of Mon-Sat between 8am-10am and 7pm-10pm

and, if not:

2. Whether they would support an extension to the operational hours of Zone NA to Mon-Sat between 8am-10am and 5pm-10pm.

The results of this further consultation with residents were as follows;

- 25% of respondents answered 'Yes' to Q1 above
- 74% answered 'No' to Q1 above
- 1% left blank

and;

- 74% of respondents answered 'Yes' to Q2 above
- 12% answered 'No' to Q2 above
- 14% left the answer to this question blank as they answered 'Yes' to Q1 above.

Based on these results and after further discussions with local ward councillors, the Portfolio Holder & Mayor, it was agreed that the Council should move forward to deliver the proposed extension to the evening operational hours of the PPA.

It was also agreed to incorporate the new Electric (& Hybrid) vehicle charging bay in Salisbury Road, add a maximum stay of 3 hours to all disabled bays located off of St Albans Road and amend the times of the limited waiting bay at the south eastern end of Leavesden Road (from Mon to Sat 8am – 6:30pm, 2 hours no return within 1 hour to Mon to Sat 8am-10pm 2 hours, no return within 1 hour) within the zone.

Parking Services also requested to include provision in the Zone NA amendment Order for increased visitor permit allowance of 290 hours (from 200 hours) based on the Permitted hours being extended. They also requested to add the provision for Motor Trader permits.

There have been no objections from any of the statutory consultees.

5.0 **STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS**

- 5.1 The Notice of Proposal detailing the general effect of the proposed Order was published in the local press and put up on site on Friday 25th February 2022, therefore beginning the statutory public consultation in which members of the public have 21 days to object to the proposals.

During this statutory consultation process the council received 2 individual objections, 1 message of support and 4 further comments.

The nature of the Objections received to the statutory public consultation as well as the Council's response to these objections are detailed below;

5.2 **Permits for residences that do not have a car**

One objection to the proposals was received on behalf of their elderly parents, stating that their parents live in the zone, but do not have a car and so their parents rely on them a lot. They would not be able to apply for a permit and it would make it difficult for them to deal with tasks for their parents.

Response; The objector would be able to apply for a visitor permit. As the residents are Old Age Pensioners, then they are eligible to receive double the visitor permit allowance, as well as a discount of 50% on the cost of a visitor permit. They would also be able to apply for 'Special residents' permits if they are regular visitors to a particular elderly/disabled resident within the zone.

5.3 **Staff members unable to apply for permits**

One objection was raised from a dentist surgery advising that they objected to the proposals as their staff were unable to apply for permits, and so would not be able to park close to their place of work. They felt that they were being unfairly treated in comparison with GP surgeries, who they stated, were eligible for permits.

Response; The primary purpose of introducing a Permit Parking Area on these residential streets is to prioritise on street parking for the residents by preventing all day commuter parking. In response to concerns surrounding being treated unfairly in comparison with GP surgeries, permits are not issued to doctors so they can use them to park when they commute to the surgery. They are issued to facilitate visits to patients in the zones. They are normally issued to mid wife's & occupational therapists for example in order for them to carry out essential home visits. As dentists do not carry out home visits, they would not qualify for a Doctors permit.

5.4 One resident supported the proposals but commented that they objected to the increase in costs for visitor permits.

Response; There is no change to the cost of visitor permits from the existing situation. However, the visitor permit allowance will be increased in line with the extension of permitted hours which the council concedes will come with a small additional cost for residents/visitors wishing to make use of the additional visitor allowance.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 **Financial**

6.1.1 The cost of the schemes is estimated at £6,000.

6.1.2 The Senior Transport and Infrastructure Projects Officer has confirmed there is a sufficient existing budget to cover this work.

6.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

6.2.1 Watford Borough Council has been given delegated authority to make traffic regulation orders and implement proposals to manage parking on public highways and other roads, pursuant to arrangements made under Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government (Arrangements for Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 with the Hertfordshire County Council, and in exercise of the powers conferred on that County under sections 1, 2, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 46A, 47, 49, 51, 53, 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Road Traffic Act 1991 and Part 6 of The Traffic Management Act 2004 and of all other enabling powers.

6.2.2 The Council has consulted with the Chief Officer of Police and the County Council.

6.2.3 The proposed restrictions do not include loading and unloading restrictions therefore a Public Inquiry is not required.

6.3 **Equalities**

6.3.1 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.

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

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.

Potential Risks

6.4	Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall score
6.4 .1	Failure to implement increased parking controls based upon the recent consultation results could lead to further public discontent from residents and lead to reputational damage to the Council.	3	3	9

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NOTIFICATION OF OFFICER DECISION

**THE BOROUGH OF WATFORD (CALLOWLAND, WATFORD)
(CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE NA)
ORDER 2020 (AMMENDMENT) ORDER 2022**

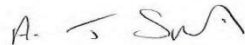
Decision Summary

1. To seek authorisation to implement the above order as proposed.
2. To seek authorisation to publish the Notice of Making, seal the Order and procure the works should the above be agreed.

Name of Officer exercising delegated authority:

Andy Smith: Senior Transport and Infrastructure Projects Officer

Signature:



Date: 5th April 2022