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|   |  Our Ref: 70070324-1Date: 29th November 2021  |

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Extension to Public Engagement: Seeking your views on proposed changes to parking restrictions at: York Way Industrial & Rock Road Residential Area, Royston (Scheme 1)**

Due to a delay in our postal service delivering letters to residents, the Council is extending the updated pre-consultation period to allow sufficient time for residents to consider the proposals and make a decision. The consultation has now been extended to 7th January 2022. If you have already submitted a response to this consultation, no further action needs to be taken.

North Hertfordshire District Council have appointed WSP, who are working together with the Hertfordshire Highways Traffic Order Team, as its consultants to deliver this scheme.

Purpose

This letter is an update to the pre-consultation public engagement exercise undertaken in December 2020 to address various parking issues identified across Royston. This letter relates to Scheme 1.

It was clear before the pandemic that both residents and local businesses were inconvenienced by commuter and unsafe parking. However, we are aware that on-street parking habits changed during the pandemic as more people are working from home with less commuting to their place of work.

This proposal seeks to manage and improve parking conditions in the area for the future. The scheme would also improve parking conditions for visitors, as well as customers of local shops and businesses in the area. The updated scheme is based on the findings of responses received as part of the previous pre-consultation.

What were the original proposals?

During the pre-consultation public engagement exercise undertaken in December 2020, the Council proposed an introduction of a controlled parking zone for permit holders only in residential roads, and commercial parking bays in commercial roads for local businesses in the area.

The majority of responses received by the Council from residents and businesses did not support these proposals so the controlled parking zone and commercial parking bays will not be pursued further. However, the feedback from the pre-consultation public engagement exercise did indicate that there may be support for minor safety improvements in the area.

What are the proposed changes?

* Junction protection to make both commercial and residential roads safer:
* No Waiting at Any Time (Double Yellow Lines)
* Improve parking conditions for visitors:
* Restricted parking 10am-4pm Mon-Sat 1 hour No return within 2 hours for visitors
* Unrestricted parking
* Blue Badge holder permit parking bays

Scheme 1 includes the following streets, as illustrated on the plans enclosed:

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| Orchard Road | York Way | Greenfield  |
| North Close  | Newark Close  |  |

How can I comment on the proposals?

This letter is the informal consultation part of the Traffic Regulation Order process and it is very important we have your support to enable these proposals to go ahead. Otherwise, they will not be reconsidered in the foreseeable future.

You can write to us outlining whether you support the proposal or not and provide any relevant comments. Clearly state the reference number: 70070324-1. Ensure the letter reaches us by the consultation closing date of 7th January 2022.

Any objections raised to this proposed Order should be sent in writing to:

Hertfordshire County Council

Highways Team

Abelsmith House

Gunnelswood Road

SG1 2ST

or e-mail tro@hertfordshire.gov.uk quoting the reference number: 70070324-1 in the email subject line.

What happens next?

This pre-consultation public engagement exercise is the first part of a two-stage process. The comments received from local residents and business will help us finalise our proposals prior to proceeding to the more formal public consultation process. It is important that we receive a high response rate from residents and businesses in the area for us to consider taking these or other proposals forward. You can comment on all or any part of the proposals. **Therefore, we ask you to respond even if you have no objections.** Please note that depending on the type and number of responses we may decide not to pursue them any further. The second public consultation stage is open to anyone and would start the formal Traffic Regulation Order process.

Yours faithfully,

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| WSP Associate on behalf of North Hertfordshire District Council |   |

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q** - Will I be able to park directly outside my home?

**A** - The Council cannot guarantee a parking space immediately outside your property. The findings of responses received as part of the previous pre-consultation identified a majority objection to the introduction of a controlled parking zone.

**Q** - I don’t have a problem with parking at the moment. Why is the council proposing to include my road in this scheme?

**A** - Although there was not support from residents and businesses for a controlled parking zone or commercial parking bays during the pre-consultation public engagement exercise in December 2020 the Council received feedback regarding safety measures being introduced. If you would like parking restrictions in the area to stay as they are, it is important that you provide this feedback to the Council during this pre-consultation.

**Q** - My street doesn’t have any parking restrictions included in these proposed plans. Why have I received this pre-consultation public engagement exercise?

**A** - Your street was included in the pre-consultation public engagement exercise in December 2020. And although your street has not been included in this current proposed scheme due to objections/lack of support during the December 2020 pre-consultation, the proposed restrictions may impact your street, so it is important you are given the opportunity to submit any comments if you wish.

**Q** - I am totally against any proposals to change the parking in my road. Has the council already decided to implement this scheme?

**A** - No. This consultation is designed to find out how many residents support the Council’s proposals. If a majority object to this scheme, then the Council will not take it any further in the foreseeable future.

**Q** - Why are the Council exploring implementing parking restrictions in York Way Industrial Estate?

**A** - The council is aware that the demand for parking is becoming harder and harder to meet and, in an effort to ease the issues surrounding erroneous parking and to aid the free flow of traffic in currently uncontrolled areas near industrial premises, the council is exploring restricting parking to enable businesses and its employees to park within designated areas.

**Q** - What parking controls are to be introduced?

**A** - No parking controls have formally been identified at present as the Council are keen to seek your views. The proposal is to include a mix of designated unrestricted and restricted parking areas for visitors to the area whilst providing safety measures at junctions.