

Our Ref: 70070324-2

Date : 29th November 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Public Engagement: Seeking your views on proposed changes to parking restrictions at:**

**Review of certain restrictions in CPZ Zone B (Gower Road, Queens Road & Mill Road Area) Scheme 2**

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 2.

It was clear before the pandemic that both residents and local businesses were inconvenienced by commuter and unsafe parking.

This proposal seeks to manage and improve parking conditions in the area for the future. The scheme would also improve parking conditions for visitors, 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:

* Review of existing Controlled Parking Zone B with extended pm time of one hour (Mon – Fri -10am 11am, 4pm – 6pm);
* Extend controlled parking Zone B to include the area of Kingsway, Ermine Close, Tichmarsh Close, Evans Close, Major Haddock Close, Leete Place, Green Street and Gage Close;
* Proposed resident permit holder parking bays within the controlled hours of 8am-6pm for residential properties located in Kneesworth Street and Queens Road without off street parking to be eligible to purchase permits within the Zone;
* Proposed dual use resident permit holder parking bays within the controlled hours of 4pm - 8am to enable residents to park in the evenings and overnight;
* Remove some permit holder bays to improve free flow of traffic.

The Council received objections in respect to changing some bays to 4pm – 8am and the removal of some permit holder bays. Some streets such as Kingsway, Ermine Close and Major Haddock Close also objected to being included in the extension of the Controlled Parking Zone B. These elements have therefore been removed from the proposed scheme.

What are the proposed changes?

Based on the feedback received during the pre-consultation public engagement exercise undertaken in December 2020, the Council are proposing the following:

* Review of existing Controlled Parking Zone B with extended pm time of one hour (Mon – Fri -10am 11am, 4pm – 6pm);
* Extend controlled parking Zone B to include Leete Place, Evans Close, Titchmarsh Close, Gage Close and Green Street.
* Proposed resident permit holder parking bays within the controlled hours of 8am-6pm for residential properties located in Kneesworth Street and Queens Road without off street parking to be eligible to purchase permits within the Zone;
* To provide junction protection and safety improvements only, including no waiting at any

 time double yellow lines within Gage Close, Green Street and Tichmarsh Close.

Scheme 2 includes the following streets, as illustrated on the plans enclosed.

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| Clark Road | Gower Road and Lower Gower Road | Leete Place |
| Mill Road | Morton Street | Queens Road |
| Queensway | Serby Avenue | Stamford Avenue |
| Victoria Crescent | Tichmarsh Close | Kneesworth Street |
| Evans Close | Green Street | Gage 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: 70070324-2. 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: 70070324-2 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 |   |

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**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q** - What is a Controlled Parking Zone?

**A** - An area where parking is controlled to benefit residents and visitors. During controlled hours a parking permit or visitor ticket is required to park which can be purchased through the NHDC Resident Parking Permit scheme.

**Q** - Does the council charge for parking permits?

**A** - Yes, the council charges for each resident parking permit. Each permit costs £84 per 12 months. We need to make these charges to cover the cost of the extra parking enforcement and for issuing the permits. Charges may increase or decrease in the future. Further information on permit charges can be found on the NHDC website at: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/parking/parking-permits>

**Q** - Who would be entitled to buy permits?

**A** - All residential properties listed in the residential streets above will be eligible to purchase parking permits and visitor tickets. Proof of residence in either the form of giving the Council your permission to check the Council Tax register or submitting one supporting documentation. Further information can be found on the NHDC website at: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/parking/parking-permits>

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

**A** - The Council cannot guarantee a parking space immediately outside your property. Permit holders can park anywhere within the zone within designated areas and must display a permit during the controlled hours.

**Q** - What about disabled badge holders?

**A** - Your blue badge effectively becomes a permit and allows you to park in a permit holder bay with no time limit.

**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 some residents 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** - 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** - 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.