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|   |  Our Ref: 70070324-3Date: 29th November 2021  |

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

**Princess Mews and Briary Lane Area, Royston (Scheme 3)**

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.

Purpose

The Council is currently undertaking a parking review across Royston in response to a number of parking issues that have been raised by members of the public. Following a series of workshops with local members, County Councillors, members of Royston Town Council, Royston First BID, and representatives from Hertfordshire Highways and the local Police, the Council is undertaking a review of these parking issues under a programme titled the Royston Parking Review and have split these up into a series of schemes. This letter relates to Scheme 3.

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

It was clear before the pandemic that residents were inconvenienced by commuter, town centre worker and unsafe parking, and while some of these issues may have reduced over the last few months, this proposal seeks to manage and improve parking conditions in the area for the future.

This letter proposes a safe and fair parking scheme to make it easier for residents with no or limited access to off-street parking to park near their home. The scheme would also improve parking conditions for visitors, customers of local shops and businesses in the area. The scheme is based on a detailed review of parking issues carried out by the Council.

What are the proposed changes?

* Proposed measures to make the roads safer;
* Proposed extension of Controlled Parking Zone C;
* Proposed introduction of a an additional Controlled Parking Zone for permit holders only in residential roads, making it easier for you to park closer to your home;
* Proposed Single Yellow Line restrictions to dissuade commuters from parking all day in residential streets.

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

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| Baldock Street | Briary Lane | Princess Mews |
| Heath Avenue | Norman’s Lane | Lankester Road |
| Coronation Avenue | Days Close | Sun Hil |
| Stake Piece Road | Echo Hill |  |

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: 70070324-3. 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: 70070324-3 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** - Please check the attached plan for further detail on which streets are proposed to be included in the extension of Zone C or the newly proposed zone. 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** - Experience in some areas within Royston shows that the problems affecting roads nearest the station will spread to neighbouring streets if the council does not take preventative action.

**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.