

Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel
12 July 2018

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

* Reporting to Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting of the WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL CABINET PLANNING AND PARKING PANEL held on Thursday 12 July 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE.

PRESENT: Councillors S. Boulton (Chairman)
M. Perkins (Vice-Chairman)

H. Bromley (substituting for S. Kasumu), M. Cowan (substituting for A. Rohale), J. Cragg, C. Gillett, S. Glick, G. Hayes, M. Larkins (substituting for A. Chesterman), P. Shah and P. Zukowskyj

ALSO Tenants' Panel Representatives

PRESENT: D. Fuller and R. Read

OFFICIALS Corporate Director (Resources, Environment & Cultural Services)
PRESENT: (K. Ng)
Head of Environment (D. Reyner)
Parking and Cemetery Services Manager (V. Hatfield)
Governance Services Officer (G. Paddan)

71. SUBSTITUTIONS

The following substitutions of Panel members had been made in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 19-22:-

Councillor H. Bromley for S. Kasumu
Councillor M. Cowan for A. Rohale
Councillor M. Larkins for A. Chesterman

72. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Chesterman, S. Kasumu and A. Rohale.

73. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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74. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS

Councillors S. Boulton and P. Zukowskyj declared a non-pecuniary interest in items on the agenda as appropriate by virtue of being Members of Hertfordshire County Council.

75. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND PETITIONS

The following questions were received and the Chairman responded as below:

Question One – Mrs Pat Petterson, 4 Parkway Close

The proposed parking changes remove 8 to 10 parking spaces (crossovers/hard standings) from A03. How will this increase parking capacity, particularly for residents in the cul-de-sac? "

Council's Response

This mitigated by the proposal to merge A03 and part of A04 into one scheme and by further restricting zone A04 to remove all non-resident parking during the day this will benefit the residents of zone A03 by increasing the opportunity to find parking as their pool of parking spaces will grow from 16 to 48

Question Two - Denise Slark, 10 Parkway Close

"Regarding the proposed A03 parking scheme changes, when the initial letter was sent out asking if residents wanted to change the scheme they were asked to express a view around (a) 'do nothing and leave things as they are', (b) 'I am in favour of the proposed changes', or (c) 'I agree with the proposed verge and footway prohibition' (3rd May 2017). It was not until 9th June 2018 (after the responses were submitted) that parking services clarified that verge protection covers the parking on crossovers and that residents were able to fully understand that the question implied the removal of parking capacity. Why was it not made clear to residents from the outset that verge protection encompasses stopping of parking on crossovers/hardstandings?"

Council's Response

In response to the Council's initial letter, some residents asked for clarity on what areas the Verge Protection Order would include. Therefore, when the letter with the results of the initial survey was sent to residents, more detail was included:

"This proposal is an extension of the practice recently adopted in Longcroft Lane and surrounding roads. Residents should note that a verge protection order extends from hedgerow to hedgerow and includes vehicle crossovers in addition to footways and grassed verges"

Residents were invited to comment further on these proposals with this in mind.

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Question Three – Carole Bloom, 78 Parkway

Are Councillors aware of the support being provided to the residents of the Parkway Close scheme (A03) by Grant Shapps MP, and have they been given the opportunity to review the letter he wrote to Councillor Stephen Boulton that he requested be circulated to all Panel members?

Council's Response

The letter received by Grant Shapps MP was circulated to all Panel members in advance of the meeting.

Question Four – Question Two – Susan Busse, 11 Parkway Close

Regarding the proposed parking scheme changes, how will the rights and needs of the disabled and elderly residents who currently park on the concrete crossovers/hardstandings be protected with the proposed single advisory disabled parking space and existing cobbled parking island which is unsuitable for wheelchairs and crutches?

Councils Response

The Council would consider any specific requirements from residents and try and find a solution. When the Council were notified by a particular resident concerning their disability, provision was then made for the inclusion of an advisory disabled bay. The Council will work with the resident to ensure the surfacing of the bay is compatible to their requirements.

Question Five - Martin Souter, 8 Parkway Close

“As part of the consultation process, residents submitted a petition signed by 19 of the 20 households in the A03 cul-de-sac, and a consolidated objections letter signed by all 20 of the households in the A03 cul-de-sac, in opposition to the planned changes. Why has this evidence of unanimous opposition, which would usually be a strong consideration for such proposed changes, been omitted from the Agenda Reports Pack?”

Council's Response

The petition was received by the Council and the total number of signatories to the petition was 27. To be presented before a meeting petitions must be signed by at least 50 people. This advice is contained in the Council website 'Having your say at meetings. The petition was considered as additional information and the points raised in the cover letter did not raise any new issues or concerns which had not been covered within the objections received, which are all included within the report.

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Question Six – Alex Souter, 8 Parkway Close

“The A03 parking scheme was put into place in 2011 and includes a parking plan and map that covers parking in front of the houses of Parkway close on hardstandings and crossovers. This map can be viewed today on the Welwyn and Hatfield website under our current parking permit scheme (A03). So why do Parking Services continue to dismiss this plan calling it a previous map when it is in fact the current A03 scheme which went through statutory consultation and governance back in 2011 and clearly gives residents the right to park in front of their houses on the hardstandings and crossovers?”

Council’s Response:

The Council have the right to review and amend any parking restriction or mapping schedules. This particular map contained errors and was in need of correction. The map incorrectly displays certain areas which were never intended for vehicles to park on including large areas of grass, pedestrian walkways and vehicle crossovers.

Hertfordshire County Council’s application form for a dropped kerb/crossover states clearly that vehicle crossovers are not be used as additional parking.

Question Seven - Jodi Weston, 76 Parkway

"Given the overwhelming opposition to the proposed A03 parking scheme changes from the residents within the A03 parking scheme area and the lack of evidence of any negative consequences of the existing parking scheme to either residents or the wider community, can it be explained why the proposals for this area are still being pursued and who it is anticipated will benefit?"

Council’s Response:

The Council sent out a general parking questionnaire to all residents in Handside in September 2015. Within the returned forms, some residents indicated that there was not sufficient parking available within Parkway Close. Verbal conversations since have re-iterated this, particularly when the trees were removed. By merging A03 and part of A04 into one scheme and by further restricting zone A04 to remove all non-resident parking during the day this will benefit the residents of zone A03 by increasing the opportunity to find parking as their pool of parking spaces will grow from 16 to 48.

76. REVIEW OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND INTRODUCTION OF VERGE PROTECTION ORDER IN VARIOUS ROADS, HANDSIDE WARD, WELWYN GARDEN CITY

The Chairman announced that there had been a number of late representations made which the Panel have not been able to give due consideration to and that on this occasion the information circulated/presented at the meeting would be taken into account but reiterated that this was not good practise.

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The recommendation in the published report was:

That the Panel consider the objections received in 4.1, 4.3, 4.5 and 4.7; in particular the issues raised in Section 12 around equalities and diversity. Having considered all the detailed issues in this report including any proposed mitigating actions; recommends to Cabinet to proceed with the creation of both the Orders as advertised (**Appendix B**), for the reasons set out in this report.

Due to the late representations received relating to **The Borough of Welwyn Hatfield (Various Roads, Handside, Welwyn Garden City) (Prohibition of Stopping and Waiting on Verge or Footway) Order 2017**, the recommendation was split into two parts

1. That the Panel consider the objections received relating to **The Borough of Welwyn Hatfield (Various Roads, Handside, Welwyn Garden City) (Prohibition of Stopping and Waiting on Verge or Footway) Order 2017** which are located in 4.1, 4.3, 4.5 and 4.7; in particular the issues raised in Section 12 around equalities and diversity. Having considered all the detailed issues in this report including any proposed mitigating actions; recommends to Cabinet to proceed with the creation of this Order as advertised (Appendix B), for the reasons set out in this report.
2. That the Panel consider the objections received relating to **The Borough of Welwyn Hatfield (Various Roads, Welwyn Garden City) (Restriction of Waiting and Permit Parking Zones) Order 2017** which are located in 4.1, 4.3, 4.5 and 4.7; in particular the issues raised in Section 12 around equalities and diversity. Having considered all the detailed issues in this report including any proposed mitigating actions; recommends to Cabinet to proceed with the creation of this Order as advertised (**Appendix B**), for the reasons set out in this report.

Members considered the report of the Corporate Director (Resources, Environment and Cultural Services) on the review of waiting restrictions and introduction of verge protection order in various roads, Handside Ward in Welwyn Garden City (WGC). The Panel was advised that the first recommendation relating to the Verge Protection Order would not be dealt with at this meeting, as further consideration was required and this would be deferred to a future meeting.

Members considered the second recommendation relating to the resident parking permit areas and sections of double yellow lines. The report noted that residents and businesses in parts of Parkway, WGC and surrounding roads were consulted about proposals based upon the findings of a general parking survey in 2015. As well as a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for waiting restrictions devised from the recent parking consultation.

Parkway, due to its length and varying characteristics was divided into four separate sections; A, B, C and D. In addition to these areas, separate

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consultations also took place regarding proposed waiting restrictions in Longcroft Green and a request for junction protection in Fordwich Road. As a result of a number of requests for clarification and/or additional enquiries, the consultation period for Parkway C was extended to provide more time for residents to absorb all the relevant information.

The report set out the results of the informal consultation, the statutory consultation and the recommended course of action. A total of 258 properties and businesses have been consulted. 38 objections have been received (see **Appendix A** attached to the report).

The following points were made and discussed:

- Longcroft Green – proposed double yellow lines around the junction was advertised to be controlled by a single yellow line Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm waiting restriction. However, in response to an objection this was reduced to Monday – Friday so that visitors to residents in this area would be able to park on Saturdays. The main reason for introducing the restrictions was to address access issue that the waste collection service was having.
- Parkway A – The cul-de-sac which has been increased to accommodate another 7 parking spaces (previously there had been two formal spaces). This area was proposed to be a resident's only due to the location of the houses and the lack of available space to be able to create their own off-street parking within the boundary of the private property.
Members queried why the restriction was until 5pm and not 6pm. As this was further away from the town centre residents felt that a 9am to 5pm was sufficient. The remainder of Parkway to the junction of Rooks Hill/Turmore Dale the council is proposing a single yellow line operating Monday – Saturday, 9am – 11am.
- Parkway B between the junctions of Turmore Dale and Barleycroft Road, majority of which is currently controlled by a single yellow line waiting restriction, Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm. Additional parking bays are proposed for resident only parking in this stretch of Parkway.
- Parkway C – It was noted that the section of Parkway between Barleycroft Road and Church Road (Zone A04) has shared parking bays, which allowed anyone to park for 2 hours or resident permit parking which operated for the same days and times as Zone A03 8am-6pm. Residents in A04 have reported difficulty to find available parking due to competing with non-residents as this was a main thorough-fare into the town centre therefore visitors coming in this way would see a space and take it. This compared to the other side which is very frequently empty. This was witnessed by officers during site visits. Also, reports were received from some residents stating they didn't have enough parking availability within Parkway Close. Due to these reasons the Council proposed to merge both schemes together and make it resident only operating Monday-Saturday 8am-6pm. This would increase to amount of parking available for residents in both areas to use during the operating days and times.

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- Parkway C – a question was raised in respect of an assessment being carried out on the impact on the town centre; 2 hour parking in bays and their usage. Also whether the Town Centre have had an input, as there was no reference in the report. It was noted that although there was no information in the report this had been assessed on site visits, in which spaces were always available on the other side of the road and in other roads which have limited waiting free of charge.
- There were no changes to the Parkway D.
- Concern was expressed regarding crossovers and their use together with parking, as it obstructed the crossing points for pedestrians, especially persons with mobility impairment and those with pushchairs. It was also considered as being thoughtless parking, as it caused problems for people getting vehicles in and out of driveways.
- A question was raised in respect of disability needs for individuals being covered. The Officer advised that the paperwork issued did not specially ask about disability requirements but the Council worked with the individuals to ensure that their needs were met.
- It is important that with any parking proposals that the Estate Management Scheme is upheld with any proposed amendments. Planning team may need to be involved with any proposals to ensure they protect the ethos of the Garden City.

It was moved by Councillor M. Cowan and seconded by Councillor P. Zukowskyj that the wording in the recommendation be amended to include the following wording:

‘This Panel expresses opposition to merging A03 and A04’.

On the amendment being put to the meeting there voted:

FOR approval of the amendment – 2

AGAINST approval of the amendment – 9 and the amendment was declared lost.

RESOLVED:
(unanimous)

1. That the Panel consider the objections received relating to **The Borough of Welwyn Hatfield (Various Roads, Welwyn Garden City) (Restriction of Waiting and Permit Parking Zones) Order 2017** which are located in 4.1, 4.3, 4.5 and 4.7; in particular the issues raised in Section 12 around equalities and diversity. Having considered all the detailed issues in this report including any proposed mitigating actions; recommends to Cabinet to proceed with the creation of this Order as advertised (**Appendix B**) with amendments (**Appendix C**), for the reasons set out in this report.

Meeting ended at 8.10 pm
GP

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