

Part I  
For Decision

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CABINET – 6 JANUARY 2020

Recommendation from the Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel on 17 December 2019:-

AMENDMENT OF THE RESTRICTIONS IN HATFIELD TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKS

Report of the Corporate Director (Resources, Environment and Cultural Services) on the amendment of the restrictions in Hatfield town centre car parks. The report noted that there are five car parks located in Hatfield town centre, which the Council are responsible for (Appendix A). The Council is building a new car park next year in The Common. Although additional car parking provision has been made to mitigate the loss of the 148 parking spaces, there will be 90 less spaces during the construction period of the Multi-Storey car park. Businesses and residents have been consulted in respect of these changes and the Council will ensure that there is adequate parking provision for local workers, deliveries, customers and residents during this time.

The report set out the results of the informal consultation, the statutory consultation and the recommended course of action. A total of 570 businesses and residents had been consulted directly. Twelve objections had been received and shown within the report (Appendix B).

The Officer informed Members that the Council had carefully considered comments and objections received in response to the advertised proposals and made further changes to the parking arrangements to accommodate some of the objections which were included in the report. This centred around increasing the number of 3 hour parking bays available and reducing the days of operation from Monday-Saturday to Monday to Friday.

The Chart below provides the number of parking spaces and the time they are restricted:

Advertised proposals – Monday to Saturday

<b>Car park</b>	<b>2 hours</b>	<b>3 hours</b>	<b>Permit</b>	<b>Disabled</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>
Dog Kennel Lane		26	26	4	
Kennelwood Lane	43		11 (Doctors)	8	
Fiveways	48				
Wellfield Road	16				
Lemsford Road	63			4	85
Link Drive			115	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>85</b>

Amended changes – Monday Friday

<b>Car park</b>	<b>2 hours</b>	<b>3 hours</b>	<b>4 hours</b>	<b>Permit</b>	<b>Disabled</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>
Dog Kennel Lane		26		26	4	
Kennelwood Lane		43		11 (Doctors)	8	
Fiveways		48				
Wellfield Road	16					
Lemsford Road			63		4	85
Link Drive				115	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>85</b>

Members discussed the following points:

- Concern was expressed in terms of the proposals for the decisions made about the redevelopment of Hatfield town centre, it was felt discussions and decisions have been made at other Committees (in piecemeal ) it was felt that proposals should have been debated by this Panel.
- The recent physical closure of Link Drive car park was discussed. Due to the changes in the parking restrictions in the roads surrounding the town centre this had forced commuters in to Link Drive car park. A request was made from the businesses who attended a regular Business Forum meeting to restrict the opening hours until a decision had been made on the parking proposals. This is to prevent commuters from taking a large percentage of the parking spaces up before the local workers arrive. The current commuter parking was making it difficult for local workers to find a parking space and get to work on time.
- Members discussed the cross party decision associated with the proposals for the multi-storey car park.
- It was suggested that Market Square should be redeveloped and the car parks kept as present.
- The loss of parking bays and disruption to residents and businesses was considered.
- It was noted that Link Drive car park was currently unrestricted; if a permit scheme was introduced then only local workers/residents would be able to park here. Being unrestricted, it provided parking for non-residents.
- The Officer explained that further changes had been made to increase the number of 3 hours limited waiting bays from 26 to 117 and providing a further 61 parking bays to park up to 4 hours. Rather than the 170, 2 hour parking bays which was advertised.

It was moved by Councillor S. Boulton, seconded by T. Kingsbury and

RESOLVED

(3 for and 3 against) The Chairman exercised his casting vote and it was carried (4 for and 3 against)

That the Panel consider the objections received in 5.1 to 5.12 of the report and in particular the issues raised in Section 16 around equalities and diversity and having considered all the detailed issues in the report including any proposed mitigating actions, recommends to Cabinet to proceed with the amended proposals (Appendix E) and the creation of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for all the reasons set out in the report.