

Part I  
For Decision

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CABINET – 6 JANUARY 2020

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

INTRODUCTION OF VERGE PROTECTION ORDER IN VARIOUS ROADS, FRENCH HORN LANE AREA, HATFIELD EAST WARD

Report of the Corporate Director (Resources, Environment and Cultural Services) on the introduction of verge protection order in various roads, French Horn Lane, area, Hatfield East Ward. Within the next year work is due to start on the redevelopment of Hatfield Town Centre, including proposals to construct a new multi-storey car park in The Common car park. The redevelopment is likely to cause a degree of parking displacement both during and after the construction of the new car park. Residents and businesses in the roads surrounding the town centre were being consulted on parking restrictions on how to minimise the effect of any displacement. The consultation area of 'French Horn Lane' initially covered 23 roads to the south and east of the town centre. The consultation area was later expanded to include Oaklands Wood and St Albans Road East.

The French Horn Lane area has been divided into five separate areas for further consultation and detailed parking designs. The entire consultation included 880 properties. All of the five areas had been consulted separately on waiting restrictions, with a new range of measures recently approved for implementation.

The Council receives a number of requests from all over the Borough, to address the issue of vehicles parked on the verge and pavements. Until recently, enforcement of parking on the footway was within the remit of the Police as this could be classed as an obstruction; however, this was now regarded as a low priority for the Police due to other work pressures. The introduction of Verge Protection Order (VPO) would provide the Civil Enforcement Officers with the means to effectively and robustly enforce vehicles parking on the verge or footway, by issuing a Penalty Charge Notice. It was noted that a VPO covered the limits of the public highway, extending from the centre of the road to the highway boundary, which in many cases is the boundary of the private property, this could include verges and/or pavement. Yellow line waiting restrictions also share the same boundary.

A Member raised the issue of the verge damage in the said areas and what justification there was for resolving the issue before dealing with the Peartree area. The Officer explained that this area was on the work programme and consultation had already taken place with residents and businesses, in the French Horn Lane area. Also that, Peartree is on the work programme and the Council hoped to start consulting residents in Spring 2020. Also due to staff changes, there had been some delays and timescale changes.

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

That the Panel considers the objection received in 4.1 and in addition the issues raised in Section 15 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 a traffic regulation order the reasons set out in the report.