

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CABINET – 2 AUGUST 2016

Recommendation from the Cabinet Housing and Planning Panel on 30 June 2016:-

ARM AND SWORD LANE, HATFIELD – RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING SCHEME

As part of the introduction for the benefit of new Members, the Parking and Cemetery Services Manager explained the overview of the parking consultation process.

The report of the Director (Finance and Operations) set out the results of the informal consultation, the formal consultation and the recommended course of action which has taken place as part of the redevelopment of Salisbury Square, Hatfield.

As part of the redevelopment of Salisbury Square, Hatfield, the landowners, Gascoyne Holdings Ltd (Hatfield Park Estate) had requested that the Council consult the occupiers of a newly completed residential development in Arm and Sword Lane, Hatfield on new waiting restrictions. The purpose of the consultation was to prevent long term parking by non-residents. Three letters of objection to the formal consultation had been received for the following reasons:-

- The advertised hours of operation were Monday to Saturday 8:00am to 6.30pm and this would not prevent non-residents from parking in residents' spaces before they get home from work so they would therefore like 24/7 enforcement, 365 days a year.
- The proposed zone would give a handful of properties in Arm and Sword Lane more than two parking spaces per dwelling.
- The proposal was prejudicial to existing residents of Old Hatfield, reducing the number of spaces currently available for business workers and existing residents.

In response to concerns raised by Members regarding similar issues experienced in other areas of the Borough, the Parking and Cemetery Services Manager advised that these were on the Parking Services work programme. Members were asked to note that the Parking Services Team was a small team with limited resources. The roll out of any parking scheme was governed by the resources available. A whole area approach, on a Ward by Ward basis was being taken currently to address the parking issues rather than looking at individual streets.

Members requested that for clarity, a map of the area to be considered be included in all future reports pertaining to Traffic Regulation Orders.

Members were of the view that more signage pertaining to the public car park should be provided to make it much clearer. This would be clearer to visitors and would encourage them not to use the two residents parking bays.

It was noted that the people most likely to benefit from these proposals were the residents. It was standard procedure to monitor new parking restrictions for the first six months after they were implemented. During this period any reports of safety issues or parking displacement would be recorded and any significant issues dealt with as part of this process. This might lead to further consultation or amendments to the existing parking restrictions.

The primary objective of this scheme was to reduce the number of commuters parked on the road and thereby ease parking pressure for the residents. Parking Services therefore recommended the scheme to proceed and be implemented as advertised.

#### RESOLVED:

That having considered the proposal and the objections, the Cabinet be recommended to proceed with the creation of the "Borough Of Welwyn Hatfield (Arm And Sword Lane, Hatfield) (Restriction Of Waiting Permit Parking Zone) Order 2016" for the reasons outlined below:-

- A number of residents would have need of permits/vouchers as their vehicles will be on the road during the hours of the restriction.
- The Council's current enforcement resources did not provide 24/7 enforcement so the proposed days and times of operation were as extensive as the Council could practically manage
- Improvements would be made to the existing council car park signage, advertising its availability after 6.00pm.
- The proposed permit parking bay was 36m in length, equating to 6 x 6m. A standard parking space was 6m, therefore each property had been allocated one parking space.
- Existing residents of Arm and Sword Lane were currently purchasing permits for Zone B01 (Old Hatfield) – the creation of this new scheme would free up parking space.
- Business workers and existing residents would not have access to park on the proposed resident parking bay as this had been created specifically for residents of Arm and Sword Lane. No changes were proposed to the Salisbury Square car park which the business workers and existing residents currently used.

A question received about this item and the answer given are attached.

1. Question to the Chairman Councillor Mandy Perkins from Mr C Goward

“Parking is a major issue with Old Hatfield residents. Our understanding is that there are 144 permits issued for the 144 spaces in Zone B01, and current development work turning offices into flats has created a demand for maybe 30 more spaces. There is no clear picture of how much space will be provided for existing residents in the new GCE Salisbury Square Car Park, or how car parking will be managed in Old Hatfield in future. I gather that the introduction of B07 is necessary in order to protect parking space for the 6 residents on Arm & Sword Lane when the camera control system which currently controls the Salisbury Square car park is removed. This whole subject needs fuller consultation (I have earmarked 21<sup>st</sup> July with Vicki as a possible meeting date to start this process).

Can the removal of the cameras and introduction of B07 be delayed by a couple of months until the longer term plan is decided?”

The Chairman gave the following answer to the question:-

‘Welwyn Hatfield Council do not currently limit the number of permits in any of our resident parking permit schemes. The Council isn’t aware that parking during the days and hours of restriction is difficult for those residents who have a permit. Not all permit holders need to park in the area at the same time; therefore there is constant turnover of available parking space. Currently the residents in Arm & Sword Lane have the option to purchase permits in B 01. To go ahead with the recommendations would provide those residents with their own permit area without in the future possibly impacting B 01.

Old Hatfield is on the Parking Services medium term work programme and any concerns raised will be addressed as part of that project.’