

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET – 6 SEPTEMBER 2016

Recommendation from the Cabinet Housing and Planning Panel on 14 July 2016:-

THE RYDE AREA - PROPOSED RESIDENT PARKING PERMIT SCHEME AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING

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. A total of 402 properties were included in the consultation and the Council had received six letters of objection to the formal proposals.

A parking study was carried out in Hatfield in March 2012 to identify the key parking problems and possible solutions. Subsequent to this, in 2014 over 5,000 residents and businesses in the Hatfield Central and East Wards received parking questionnaires. Over 1000 completed questionnaires were returned and this information has been collated and analysed.

In April 2015, the Council decided to split both wards into five separate areas and prioritise these. Residents and businesses in The Ryde and surrounding roads were the first to be consulted.

Members considered the following amendment to section 11 of the report – Equality and Diversity.

- that an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) had been carried out.
- no significant differential impacts were found.
- age – elderly residents might benefit from a less congested environment, with improved access to and egress from their properties. Residents in receipt of a state pension were eligible for 50% discount when purchasing visitor vouchers.
- carers for the elderly - if elderly residents need a carer there are a number of options:
 - the restriction was only for one hour Monday-Friday and carers could visit outside of the one hour restriction
 - if they were family members they could apply for a free ‘carers’ permit
 - practices already purchased Doctor/Health Visitor permits for their staff and these could be used in all of the Council’s permit areas.

- disability – disabled residents might feel encouraged to use their vehicle in a less congested environment and residents with a valid blue badge received their first permit free of charge.

The Parking and Cemetery Services Manager confirmed that:-

- a full and open dialogue had been held with the Headteacher of the Ryde School during which various times regarding the hour's restriction outside the school had been discussed and agreed.
- Many of the residents who had responded to the consultation exercise had requested a restriction of some sort. Although the majority of the responses (41%) opted for a single yellow line during the consultation, a significant number (34%) opted for a resident permit scheme, as either themselves or their visitors would need to park during the proposed hours of operation. With this information in mind, the Council progressed the resident parking permit scheme to the formal stage.
- following the election, all three new Ward Members had received a full briefing on the proposed scheme and had been fully engaged and involved.

Members expressed mixed views regarding the effect of the reopening of the refurbished station car park. It was difficult to ascertain exactly the impact on the migration of cars with regards to the station car park or whether parking was moving further up The Ryde. Many of the properties in the area had driveway access, often large and spacious driveways. Concerns were expressed regarding the displacement of vehicles into other already congested areas.

RESOLVED:
(9 voting for and 1 against)

That having considered the objections received, in particular the issues raised around equalities and diversity and all of the detailed issues in the report including any proposed mitigating actions, the Cabinet be recommended to proceed with the creation of the Traffic Regulation Order for all the reasons set out in this report.