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COUNCIL**

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Enquiries to: Jennifer Yeboah

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Our reference: JY/Oxhey consult

Date: 22nd November 2018

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Oxhey Ward – Consultation on parking controls

In 2013 The Council carried out a consultation to determine the views of residents and businesses in Oxhey Ward on the principle of introducing a resident's permit parking scheme to address issues of non-resident parking in the area, mainly associated with commuters parking to travel to London from the nearby Bushey railway station. At this time, the majority of respondents to the consultation were not in favour of new parking controls and no further action was taken by the Council.

In 2017, at the request of Oxhey Ward Councillors, on-street parking surveys were undertaken to assess whether the levels of parking pressure had increased and if there were continued difficulties with commuter parking. These surveys indicated that on-street parking levels had increased over time and that resident may therefore have greater difficulty in finding parking spaces in residential streets.

In light of these findings, the Council is now commencing a new consultation to ascertain current views and wishes of residents and businesses regarding the possible introduction of new parking controls in parts of Oxhey that are affected. Indicative proposals for a new parking scheme have been shown on the attached plan. The plan shows six different proposed permit parking areas (PPA). Further information on the concept of permit parking areas is provided overleaf. Please note that the operational times shown on the signs on the plan are only indicative and may not be the actual hours of operation for any Parking scheme which may result from this consultation exercise.

What happens next?

The Council is seeking the views of residents and businesses on the principle of introducing PPAs in the Oxhey area to address existing parking problems. Please complete the questionnaire included with this letter and return it, along with any other feedback you may have, in the reply-paid envelope provided, to reach the Council by **14th December 2018**.

Based on the feedback from the consultation, the Council will decide whether or not to develop detailed proposals to control parking in all or part of Oxhey to address identified problems. If this does happen, the proposals would be the subject of further consultation with residents to help refine the scheme. If you would like to discuss these proposals in more detail please contact me on the telephone number quoted at the top of this letter or by email at: jennifer.yeboah@watford.gov.uk

Many thanks for taking the time to read this letter and for your participation in the consultation process. Your views will be important in guiding the Council's decisions on how best to address the identified parking problems in Oxhey.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Yeboah
Traffic Engineer



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SCHEME CONSIDERATIONS

Feedback from the 2013 consultation identified that one of the key concerns of residents, with new parking controls, was the visual impacts that marked parking bays, yellow lines and parking signage would have on the area, potentially leading to an 'urbanisation' of the existing village environment.

Changes made in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 now allow a more sensitive approach to the marking of parking bays and associated signage, and this has been taken into account by the Council in considering potential parking control options for Oxhey. Residents' parking schemes generally take the form of a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ). These zones require all of the available kerb space to be marked with either a parking bay, where parking is permitted for all or part of the day, or a yellow line restriction, to enable the zone to be enforced. This solution, if adopted for Oxhey, would require the extensive road markings and associated signage that did not find favour in previous consultations.

In considering scheme options for potential parking controls in Oxhey, the Council has adopted an alternative approach and consider that a Permit Parking Area (PPA) would offer a more appropriate solution. Under a PPA, all vehicles that wish to park on-street within the Area must display a valid permit. PPA signage is erected at the entry points to the Area and small 'repeater' signs are displayed at points throughout the area to remind drivers that a permit is required. Using this arrangement removes the need for marked parking bays, as permit holders can park at any point along the kerb that is not restricted by single or double yellow lines. Where appropriate, white bar markings (WBM) can also be used to discourage inappropriate parking activity, for example across private driveways. The PPA approach has the additional advantage of maintaining the existing parking capacity of each street as marked parking bays for residents are not required.

The Council is mindful that Oxhey village is home to a number of shops and businesses that benefit from the provision of parking for customers, and that the ability of non-residents to park within the zone is important for their continued trading. This activity can be accommodated by the provision of short-stay parking bays in the area close to the shops, for use by customers. As the customers of these shops and businesses will not necessarily have a residents' parking permit, an exemption for these can be made through the provision of short-stay bays which allow limited time waiting in the marked bays

PROPOSED PERMIT PARKING AREAS

The plan that accompanies this letter shows how the principle of PPAs can be applied to Oxhey Ward. The area of Oxhey village, shown in green, would allow parking for permit holders only except in the limited waiting bays, indicated by the green dots. These would be the only marked parking bays within this PPA area. It should be noted that the number of limited waiting bays that would be required or can be accommodated has not been determined, as this will be considered at the detailed design stage should the scheme be taken forward.

The four PPA areas shown in blue would allow permit holder only parking throughout, as these residential streets do not have an obvious need for limited waiting bays. Again, signage would be required at entry points to the PPA Area, with a minimal number of repeater signs provided within the zone, mounted on existing street furniture wherever possible to avoid additional street clutter from new posts. It should be noted that the hours of PPA operation shown on the plan are indicative only and that residents and businesses will be further consulted on their preferred times of operation should the scheme be taken forward. However, it is expected that if supported the operational times of the PPAs shown in green and blue would be the same.

The PPA area shown in red is considered to be less affected by non-residential parking during the week and is instead more adversely affected on days when Watford Football Club have home matches. It is therefore considered that the operational times for this area should be in line with existing match day controls in other areas; although this will also be subject to further consultation should the scheme be taken forward. Residents will be given the opportunity to apply for parking permits for themselves and their visitors at the standard permit charges, which can be found on the Council's website. Non-residents will no longer be able to park within the PPA except in the marked short-stay, limited waiting parking bays.