

## **Proposed Permit Parking Area (PPA) - Zone Z - Riverside Road Area. Frequently Asked Questions - Statutory Consultation**

### Statutory Consultation

#### **1. Why is this statutory consultation taking place?**

This Statutory Consultation follows on from the informal consultation which was carried out with residents of the area, between 11th February and 4th March 2022. The results of which can be found at [www.watford.gov.uk/riversideroadareappa](http://www.watford.gov.uk/riversideroadareappa)

Following a review of the results Officers and Ward Councillors, it was agreed that the proposals would proceed to this statutory consultation stage.

#### **2. I did not support the proposal during the informal consultation but this is still happening?**

All comments have to be considered and whilst there will be differences of opinions between individuals due to their personal circumstances, the Council has to consider the area as a whole and the demand for parking on street from those who reside in the area.

#### **3. Why are you consulting the whole area again, when residents of some roads do not want a Permit Parking Area?**

The area needs to be considered as a whole, waiting restrictions need to be visible to all road users, so they can understand where they can and can't park. If drivers are quickly driving in and out of different roads with different restrictions this creates confusion, so a clear zone boundary needs to be set. Enforcement of such restrictions is compromised if this is not clear for drivers. In addition, any road which is within the PPA Area but excluded from the zone is likely to see displacement of traffic from non-permit holders parking on this street.

The only exception to this exclusion is Blackwell Drive & The Coppice, as Blackwell Drive is on the edge of the Zone, this can be separated, as a delineation line can be drawn at the Riverside Road/Blackwell Drive junction. The responses received to the informal consultation from these two roads combined was equally balanced between Yes and No, therefore it was considered prudent to ensure these residents were consulted again as part of the Statutory Consultation, enabling them to comment either for or object to the scheme.

#### **4. Is this statutory consultation final?**

The Statutory Consultation offers the final opportunity for residents or road users to make comment on the proposals, before any final decision is made by elected members to drop/amend or implement the scheme.

#### **5. How do I object against or support the proposals?**

Statutory Consultation is a legal process the Council must follow before making any changes to waiting restrictions on the road. As this is a legal process, letters of support or objection must be in writing, and state the residents name and address. These should be made out to Justin Bloomfield Head of Parking and can be done either by email to [oxheyparking@watford.gov.uk](mailto:oxheyparking@watford.gov.uk) or by post to Justin Bloomfield, Head of Parking, Watford Borough Council, Town Hall, Hempstead Road, Watford Herts, WD17 3EX and be received before the closing date of **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022**.

## **6. How will I know the results of this consultation?**

After the consultation date has finished, Officers and Ward Councillors will consider all comments received and make a decision on the proposals. We will write to you again, with results of the consultation.

## Existing Restrictions in the Area

### **7. Will my Access Protection Marking or Advisory Disabled Bay be removed?**

No, all existing advisory access protection markings and advisory disabled bays will remain in place. These will fall within the Permit Zone, so you will still require a Permit for the Zone to be able to park on these. No Access Protection Markings or Disabled Bays will be refreshed as part of the proposals, as the onus remains on the individual occupier to advise the Council if these are still required or need maintenance.

### **8. What road markings are being removed as part of the scheme?**

There are specific locations where markings will need to be removed as these will not be enforceable if the scheme is implemented. These include the marked half on footway bay on Riverside Road, the zig zag markings in front of 85-109 Riverside Road, and an advisory sign on the layby in Blackwell Drive.

### **9. Apart from the Permit Parking Area what other road markings are being added as part of the scheme?**

To ensure parking is protected for permit holders, and access to private drives is not obstructed, we are proposing to introduce a No Waiting Mon-Sat 1pm-3pm (to coincide with the permit hours) adjacent to properties 85-109 and 115-123 Riverside Road. To ensure access is maintained to the Riverside Road Industrial Units, we are also proposing a short 5 metre section of No Waiting at Any Time (Double Yellow Lines) either side of this access, so visibility is maintained for users of this area. In addition to ensure access can be maintained for Lutreola Close residents and the turning area used for purpose, No Waiting At Any Time is also proposed around the turning circle for 10 metres.

### **10. Will the existing Double Yellow Lines (No Waiting At Any Time) within the area be removed?**

The proposals do not intend to remove or amend any existing double yellow lines within the PPA, these will remain as they are, as they have previously been introduced for road safety reasons. If the scheme proceeds to implementation these will be refreshed where necessary.

## Permit Parking Area Zone Z – Riverside Road Area

### **11. Why is this a distinct Zone to the rest of Oxhey**

There are differing zones in Oxhey based on differing requirements and resident needs. This area is distinct and 'self-enclosed' lending itself to be its own unique zone

### **12. Why are the hours of operation set in the consultation?**

The hours of operation proposed (Monday-Saturday 1pm-3pm) have been chosen to mitigate local parking concerns and help secure parking for local residents. Offering options of different time periods leads to a split vote and a consensus is unlikely to be reached by the majority of residents in relation to a single time period. This time period was set prior to the informal consultation and was supported by the majority of respondents.

### **13. How does the Permit Parking Area work?**

The Permit Parking Area (PPA) will have signed entry points at the entry points and repeater signs within the Zone. There will be no dedicated marked bays, as the entry signs indicate 'parking past this point'. All vehicles parked within the PPA during the operational times will need to display a permit.

### **14. The proposed Zone abuts Three Rivers District Council; will their residents be entitled to permits?**

No, the Zone operates within the Watford Borough Council area, and will be signed at the boundary of Silk Mill Road/Riverside Road. As Statutory Consultees Three Rivers District Council have been informed of the proposals. Eligible permit holders need to have an address in one of the following named streets:

- Blackwell Drive
- Colne Avenue
- Crossmead
- Lutreola Close
- Riverside Road
- The Coppice and
- Waterman Close

## Permit Parking Areas

### **15. How do I apply for a permit?**

At this stage, the scheme is proposed and subject to consultation, so you cannot apply for a permit. No decision has made on whether the scheme will be implemented or not. The following questions set out the background to permit eligibility and charges.

### **16. What does a PPA (Permit Parking Area) mean?**

In a PPA all streets are subject to parking controls and vehicles may park only when displaying a valid permit for that PPA during the operational hours. The operational times of the PPA are indicated on entry signs as you enter the area/zone with residents and their visitors being given priority throughout the hours of operation. A PPA generally allows for more parking capacity as bays are not formally marked and residents are able to park across their dropped kerbs (vehicle crossovers) during the operational hours, provided that any cars parked across dropped kerbs have valid resident or visitor permits during the operational hours.

### **17. Who can apply for a Resident's Permit, how many can I have and how much do they cost?**

Resident's Permits are issued to residents whose vehicle is registered at an address within the proposed area. **The limit is two permits per household (maximum of one permit per person)** and the vehicle must not exceed 5.25m in length (up to a standard, Ford, Transit) and 2.3m in height. The Cost of resident parking permits in September 2022 are as follows:

- First permit - £25
- Second permit - £55
- Motorcycle permits - £25
- Blue Badge Drivers or parents/ guardians of blue badge holders 18 years old and under - free

Permits are valid for a 12-month period.

**18. What will happen to residents who own more than two cars?**

For Permit Parking Areas to have a positive effect we can't offer more than two permits to each household – due to the availability of on-street parking areas. Therefore, households with three vehicles or more will have to make alternative arrangements for their additional vehicles during the operational times of the permit area.

**19. How does the council control the number of permits? If every house asks for two, but the council knows there are only limited spaces, will the council cap the number sold?**

The Council will not cap the number of permits, the current policy of two permits per household was adopted following a review of on street parking spaces in Watford when the council first introduced Controlled Parking Zones.

The Council excludes new developments from permit eligibility to help maintain the level of demand for on-street parking spaces from existing residents.

**20. How and where do I obtain my Resident's Permit?**

Resident permits are digital. You apply online and there's no need to put a paper voucher in your car. You can purchase a Resident's Permit online by clicking on the resident parking permit tab on the website. Applicants must live in the area of the zone and must provide proof of residence and of vehicle ownership. You'll need to upload some documents to prove your address and vehicle details. Further information on this process is available on [www.watford.gov.uk](http://www.watford.gov.uk).

**21. What provision will be made for visitors wanting to park within the controlled hours?**

You'll need to get a visitor parking voucher for a guest to park. The account holder can easily purchase a visitor parking voucher for guests online or via the Ringo app or by calling the dedicated voucher telephone number, once a Visitor Permit Account has been opened. Only residents within the Permit Parking Zone may purchase visitor vouchers. We don't issue the paper visitor vouchers, There is an option to add additional users onto the account so more than one member of the household can book vouchers. In addition to this once the account is set up you also have the option to book vouchers by telephone if you do not have access to a PC, Tablet or App. Further information on this process is available on [www.watford.gov.uk/parking](http://www.watford.gov.uk/parking) or by telephone to the Parking Services Team on 01923 278890.

Within the proposed Zone Z (Riverside Road Area), visitor allocation is capped at 120 hours per annum (240 for senior citizens). The cost of visitor vouchers in September 2022 is 11p per hour.

**22. I am a blue badge holder (disabled badge holder) can I apply for a resident permit?**

If you are a resident within the zone and a driver you can apply for a resident permit. If you supply confirmation that you hold a valid blue badge (disabled badge), along with proof of residency and vehicle ownership, the permit will be issued free of charge. During the operational times of the zone the permit must be valid.

### **23. Are there any other permits I can or have to apply for?**

You can also apply for the following:

- **Special resident permit** - If you live in a parking permit area and you rely on a relative or friend that lives outside of the zone, to provide essential care, you can apply for a special resident permit for their use. The permit will be registered to the family member or carer's vehicle.
- **Doctor and health parking permit** – You can apply for a Doctor / Health Visitor permit if you are a medical or care organisation and your staff make essential domiciliary visits to residents that live in the parking permit area.
- **Suspensions and dispensations** - If you need a vehicle to park near your property (like for building works and deliveries) you can apply for a parking dispensation for a fee.

### **24. How much is a dispensation for a tradesperson or someone working on my property?**

As the PPA operates for only two hours a day Monday to Saturday, the cost of a tradesperson permit is £10 per day. Trades people and people working on your property will have to apply for a dispensation permit if they need to park during the operational hours of the parking permit area.

### **25. How would a business qualify for a business permit?**

The business will need to be at an address that is included within the zone and provide documentation to confirm that the business pays business rates along with documents to confirm that the vehicles are registered to the business.

The business must have no off-street parking facilities/parking space within their business premises.

If businesses meet the criteria they can apply for one business permit per business to use on two operational vehicles. This is only applicable to operational vehicles, not vehicles which allow employees to commute to work.

### **26. What happens next?**

Once the statutory consultation deadline has closed all comments received will be reported and reviewed with officers and elected members, prior to any decision being made. Once a decision has been made we will write to you again to inform you of this.

*Last Updated 12/09/22*