

Statutory Consultation - Frequently Asked Questions

Proposed extension of operational hours for Controlled Parking Zones J & K.

Statutory Consultation

1. Why is the Council carrying out this statutory consultation?

This Statutory Consultation follows on from the informal consultation which was carried out with residents of the area, between the 3rd and 24th February 2023. This showed the majority of respondents, supported proposals to change the operational hours of Zones J and K, from the existing Monday to Saturday 8am to 6.30pm, with match day hours to the proposed Monday to Sunday 8am to 10pm.

2. What was the outcome of the informal consultation?

In answer to the main question - Do you support extended hours, the following responses were received

Zone J: Letters Posted 534 - 81 Responses (Response Rate 15%)

Yes 72% No 23% Blank/Not known 5%

Zone K: Letters Posted 936 – 113 Responses (Response Rate 12%)

Yes 81% No 18% Blank/Not known 1%

Analysis of the results on a street by street basis can be found here

[https://www.watford.gov.uk/parking under Zones J and K Operational Hours Extension.](https://www.watford.gov.uk/parking%20under%20Zones%20J%20and%20K%20Operational%20Hours%20Extension)

3. 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. Following a review of the results, Elected Members agreed that the proposals should proceed to this statutory consultation stage.

4. Why are you consulting again?

The informal consultation enabled us to engage with residents to understand if there was initial support for the proposals from those properties within the zone. To introduce or amend waiting restrictions, The Council has to follow national legislation, which involves a statutory consultation.

This statutory consultation is being undertaken between the 17th November and 9th December 2023. This provides an opportunity for any person to have their say on the proposals.

5. 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 either, remove, amend or implement the proposals.

6. 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 Parking Lead Officer and can be done either by email to parkingconsultation@watford.gov.uk or by post to Watford Borough Council, Town Hall, Hempstead Road, Watford Herts, WD17 3EX. All objections and comments need to be received before the closing date of Friday 9th December 2023.

7 Who are you consulting with?

In addition to posting a letter to all properties within Zones J and K, on street notices will also be erected on street furniture in the area. This will allow opportunity for any road user to have their say on the consultation.

8 Have you informed Watford Football Club & Watford General Hospital?

Although not technically within the zone, the Council informed the Football Club & Hospital Trust of the proposed changes out of courtesy, prior to the informal and statutory consultation process.

9 How will I know the results of this consultation?

After the consultation date has finished, The Portfolio Holder 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 & Proposed Restrictions in the Area

10 What is being proposed for the operational hours of Controlled Parking Zones J & K and why?

The existing operational hours of CPZs J & K are: **Monday to Saturday 8am – 6.30pm with match day hours**. Match day hours occur on first team match days of Watford Football Club, on Weekday evenings: 6pm to 10pm & Sundays 1pm to 6.30pm

The proposed operational hours of CPZs J & K are: **Monday to Sunday 8am – 10pm**.

11 How will this affect where I park?

Within marked permit bays, or shared use permit bays you will be required to have a permit to be able to park between the hours of Monday to Sunday 8am-10pm.

12 What will happen to the Pay & Display Bays in CPZs J & K ?

These bays will remain, but to ensure a consistent approach with times of the zone, the operational hours will be increased to 8am-10pm 7 days a week. These will still enable permit holders to park within the bays but enable shorter term visitor parking for up to 2 hours.

13 The Single Yellow Lines are used for 'overspill' parking will these change as well?

Yes, to ensure the integrity of the zone and operational hours, the existing Single Yellow Line (No Waiting Mon-Sat 8am-630pm with Match day hours) will be amended to No Waiting Monday to Sunday 8am to 10pm. This will ensure there is no confusion for drivers entering the zones and reduce 'sign clutter' in the area.

14 Will the Double Yellow Lines (No Waiting At Any Time) stay?

Yes, the double yellow lines (No Waiting at Any Time), will remain in the existing locations as they are provided for road safety purposes, around junctions etc.

15 I have an Advisory Disabled Bay/Access Protection Marking will they stay?

Yes, the proposals will not amend any existing advisory disabled bays or access protection markings.

16 Will there be an increase in bay sizes/capacity for permit holders?

No, all existing bay markings and waiting restrictions will remain as they are. There is no scope in areas to increase bay lengths, and the proposal is based on the operational hours of the area, not changes or increases to on-street spaces.

17 My business operates into the evening where will my customers park?

The existing Pay & Display provision will remain for shorter term parking, up to 2 hours.

Permit Eligibility

18 As a permit holder will I now be guaranteed a space?

No, having a permit does not mean a guarantee of being able to have a space in the area. The increase in operational hours will mean that there will be a wider range of hours where permit holders have 'priority' over non permit holders to find a kerb side space.

19 Will there be any changes to the existing terms and conditions of the Permit entitlement?

No, permit eligibility and charges are set at a standard across all CPZs in Watford. Your existing permit will still be valid.

20 What about visitor vouchers if the operational hours of the zone are extended?

Due to the increase in operational hours, and to aid residents who require visitor permits, the annual 'visitor voucher' entitlement per household will be increased.

If the proposals are introduced these changes will be applied automatically to your allocation, you will not need to take any action.

From the existing (Monday to Saturday 8am to 6.30pm)

Visitor voucher entitlement: 690 hours, which includes 15 x 1 day vouchers and 2 x 1 week permits

To proposed (Monday to Sunday 8am to 10pm)

Visitor voucher entitlement: 980 hours which includes 20 x 1 day vouchers and 2 x 1 week permits.

Across all zones, senior citizens are able to request double the allocation entitlement.

What next?

21 I still have questions that need answering?

If you need assistance or clarity on understanding changes please call 01923 226400 or email parkingconsultation@watford.gov.uk.

22 When will the changes take place?

There is no guarantee that the outcome of the statutory consultation, will lead to changes being implemented. The statutory consultation is seeking views from road users on the proposals. There is no time frame at present when/if on street changes will take place

23 What action do I need to take?

Unless you want to write in to support or object to the proposals, (which must be done by Friday 9th December) you do not need to take any action.

24 What happens next?

Following the statutory consultation, the results will be analysed and reviewed by council officers, the Portfolio Holder for Transport and local Ward Councillors. A letter will be posted to properties informing them of the outcome and next steps.