

Controlled Parking Zones J and K – Extended Operational Hours - **Frequently Asked Questions - Implementation – July 2024**

1. Why is the Council extending the operational hours of Controlled Parking Zones J and K?

Residents within Zones J and K have repeatedly expressed a desire to see the operational hours in the zones, extended to allow them to park in evenings and weekends. The current restrictions finish at 6.30pm, and residents perceive demand on the parking outside of these times to be difficult.

2. What exactly is being changed?

The hours of operation within Controlled Parking Zones J and K will be changed from
From: Monday to Saturday 8am to 6.30pm. (with Matchdays) To: Monday to Sunday 8am to 10pm.

This means the time of operation within all marked bays, such as permit holder bays/pay and display bays along with timed no waiting restrictions (indicated by single yellow lines) will be changed to Monday to Sunday 8am to 10pm.

No Waiting at Any Time (double yellow line) restrictions will remain, and there will be no changes to access protection markings or advisory disabled bays.

3. What date will this change take place on?

The on-street changes will take effect from **Monday 22nd July 2024**

4. How will drivers be informed of the changes?

All properties within the area are being informed by post. For those that don't live in the area but may park in the zone, temporary advanced warning signs will be placed throughout the area to advise drivers.

5. What do I need to do?

If you park within Controlled Parking Zones J and K you need to be aware of the change of restrictions and park in accordance with the signs.

If you are an existing permit holder or have a visitor account, you do not need to take any action, as the visitor allowance will automatically be increased from Monday 22nd July, to accommodate the extension of the zone hours. (See Question X

You will no longer need to take note of Watford matchdays as the new extended hours will mean the permit hours are covered during matches.

6. What consultation has been carried out with residents and business in the area?

An informal consultation was carried out with properties between the 3rd and 24th February 2023. All properties within the area were posted information on the proposals.

Results were shared with the Portfolio Holder and Ward Councillors who agreed that based on the level of support for the proposals from those who responded that the proposals should be proceed to the statutory consultation stage. The statutory consultation was undertaken between 17th November and the 9th of December 2023. All properties in the area were informed by post and statutory legal notices were placed on street furniture throughout the area.

Comments and objections received to the statutory consultation were shared with the Portfolio Holder and Ward Councillors who agreed that based on the level of support for the proposals that these should be implemented. The decision report can be found on the Council website at the following weblink:

[Decision - PLO Report for Signature J and K Extension - Modern Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/Decision-PLOReportforSignatureJandKExtension-ModernCouncil)

7. Did you inform 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 consultation processes, and of the date when new hours will come into effect.

8. Why has the price of permits gone up before the extended hours are introduced?

Permit charges are set at a standard rate across the Borough and are not reflective of the different operational hours per zone, your permit will renewal date will not change.

9. Can I get an increase in the number of permits for my household.

No, Rules and eligibility on the number of permits per property is set across Watford.

10. Will I get more visitor vouchers due to longer hours?

Yes, due to the extended hours all existing visitor voucher account holders will be granted an additional 290 hours and going forward upon renewal of annual voucher accounts, the yearly allowance will be 980 hours (includes 20, one day vouchers and 2, one week permits).

You will not need to take any action; the visitor voucher allocation will be applied automatically from Monday 22nd July.

11. 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.

12. 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.

Where yellow line or bay markings are faded these will be refreshed.

13. My business operates into the evening/and or Sundays where will my customers park?

The existing Pay & Display provision in Zones J and K will remain for shorter term parking, up to 2 hours.