

Report to: Justin Bloomfield – Parking Lead Officer

Date: 8th August 2024

Report of: Norma Adjepong –Traffic Engineer

**THE BOROUGH OF WATFORD (WATFORD) (CONTROLLED PARKING ZONES)
(CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2023 (SYDNEY ROAD)
(AMENDMENT) (NO. 6) ORDER 2024**

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is:

1.1.1 To inform the Parking Lead Officer of the need to implement the proposal, which forms the subject of the above Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO).

1.1.2 To seek authorisation to publish “Notice of Proposals” and:

a) where no objections are received or where objections are subsequently withdrawn “Make” the TROs and implement the proposal and:

b) where objections are received and not subsequently withdrawn, report the details of the objections together with Officer’s recommendations so that further instructions can be obtained.

1.1.3 To seek authorisation to consult road users in the immediate vicinity of the proposal and statutory consultees by means of erecting a plan drawing and on street notices, and to advertise a “Notice of Proposal” in the Watford Observer. The Notice of Proposal will have information explaining how they can obtain more details of the proposals and make representations should they wish.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Parking Lead Officer authorises all as described in paragraphs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 above.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact:

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3.0 HISTORY

Background

- 3.1 The proposal to review the existing on street waiting and parking restrictions and revise the corresponding Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Sydney Road is necessary to address the ambiguity between the existing carriageway restrictions and the TRO as a result of the different property developments that have taken place on the road over the last 4 years.
- 3.2 Planning permission was first given 4 years ago to Weston Homes who converted the old and derelict Watford Laundry Factory site located on the southern side of Sydney Road into 227 apartments (8 apartment blocks) which has currently been completed. This was alongside a separate development to develop 278 homes on adjacent to the laundry Site, between no. 29 to 43 Sydney Road which is currently underway. Between that time till now, additional flats have been built on the northern end of Sydney Road, opposite the Laundry Site (refer to Figure 1) below.
- 3.3 Figure 1 - Aerial view of new developments on Sydney Road



- 3.4 In May 2022, No waiting at any time restrictions were introduced to protect the access road junctions. Corresponding amendments were also made to the adjacent existing residents permit parking bays and residents /pay and display parking bays. As a result of the different developments that have been constructed over the years, the restrictions have been amended at different stages by The Council and sometimes at the request of the developers to facilitate the construction of the developments. This has resulted in complaints from residents in Sydney Road as the existing lines and signs are in a flux of change.

As the developments are now complete and the existing access roads off Sydney Road into the developments and the junctions are established, including the one that leads to no. 29 to 43 Sydney Road, a site visit was undertaken by officers to address the issue by firstly recording the existing lines and signs currently on site. As no further development schemes have been proposed on Sydney Road in the

foreseeable future, it has been proposed to amend the TROs to reflect the existing restrictions.

3.5 Site Location

Sydney Road is located in Holywell Ward and within the Controlled Parking Zone T which operates as *Monday – Saturday, 8am – 6.30pm, match days only Mon – Friday 8am – 10pm, Saturday and Bank Holiday 8am – 6.30pm Sunday 1pm – 6.30pm*. The road layout is L-shaped and forms junctions with Hagden Road on the eastern side and Whippendell Road on the western side. The layout at the junction with Whippendell has been narrowed with a kerb buildout and only supports traffic leaving Sydney Road whilst the junction with Hagden Lane supports both leaving and entering.

- 3.6 Major housing developments have taken place to the north of Sydney Road and to the south (former Laundry site)- between no. 60 – 88 on former and 29 – 43 and adjacent to the west of this site (The Laundry Works) on the latter. The remainder of Sydney Road is residential consisting predominantly of semi-detached houses, a number of terraced houses towards the junction with Hagden Lane and 3 and 4 storey residential flats around west end corner of Sydney Road.
- 3.7 There are currently “no waiting at any time” restrictions at the junctions with Whippendell Road and Hagden Lane, as well as the junctions with the access roads into the developments. There is also a waiting ban restriction across the access road by no. 4 which leads to the garages behind the property. The rest of the carriageway is marked out with bays for permit use predominantly, and parking bays for shared use (residents /pay and display parking bays.). The western side of the carriageway towards Whippendell Road is protected by single yellow lines. Figure 2 below shows the layout of Sydney Road.



Figure 2 – Sydney Road layout

3.8 Councillor Consultation

The Portfolio Holder and Holywell ward councillors will be informed of the proposals by means of a plan to help visualise the restrictions and the amended TRO document to review and respond with their comments prior to being shared with residents and statutory consultees.

3.9 Statutory Consultation

As the proposals are considered minor adjustments to consolidate the existing TRO, Statutory Consultation will take place through the form of on street notices and a plan to help visualise the extent of the restrictions, and notices in the press and council website.

4.0 Proposals

The Draft TRO and plan is attached in **Annex A**.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

The cost of the TRO, advertising, consultation and implementation scheme of both schemes is estimated at £3,000.

It has been confirmed there is a sufficient budget in HDR004 D1107

5.2 Legal Issues (Monitoring Officer)

5.2.1 Watford Borough Council has been given delegated authority to make traffic regulation orders and implement proposals to manage parking on public highways and other roads, pursuant to arrangements made under Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government (Arrangement for discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 with Hertfordshire County Council, and is exercising the powers conferred on it under Section 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (which said Act of 1984 is hereinafter referred to as "the 1984 Act") and of all other enabling powers.

5.3 Equalities

5.3.1 This scheme aims to ensure the existing lines and signs is reflected by the Traffic Regulation Order and does not impact or discriminate against any specific group thus paying regard to the council's duty according to the Equality Act 2010 as set out below.

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

Consideration has been given to any impact on certain parties, and it is considered there would be no negative impact on specific groups, as the proposals are being promoted to there is continuity between restrictions on site and in the TRO. Should the council be made aware through the statutory consultation process of any impact on specific groups, this will be considered within an Equalities Impact Assessment.

6.0 Potential Risks

Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall score
Failure to implement new parking controls will lead to continued complaints from residents in regard to parking demand.	1	2	3

Background Papers

Annex A: Draft Traffic Regulation Orders and plan

NOTIFICATION OF OFFICER DECISION

THE BOROUGH OF WATFORD (WATFORD) (CONTROLLED PARKING ZONES) (CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2023 (SYDNEY ROAD) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 6) ORDER 2024

Decision Summary

1. That a "Notice of Proposals" is published and should there be no objections, progress to "Make" the TRO and implement the proposals. Should there be any objections received, they are to be compiled and together with the details of the objections reported and retained for reference/shared with the Portfolio Holder and Ward Councillors for further instruction.

2. Road users will be informed of the proposal by means of plans and notices erected on street posts drawing their attention to the published "Notice of Proposals" both in the press and on the Council website, explaining how they can obtain more details of the proposals and make representations should they wish.

Name of Officer exercising delegated authority:

Justin Bloomfield, Parking Lead Officer



Signature:

Date:12 August 2024.....