

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 6 FEBRUARY 2018

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSED SHARED USE OF 'CHANTRY' RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ZONE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: BISHOP'S STORTFORD MEADS

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To secure the Executive's agreement to implement 'shared use' business parking in the 'Chantry' Resident Permit Zone in Bishop's Stortford.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE: That:

(A)	the outcome of a recent Traffic Regulation Order consultation be noted;
(B)	Officers be instructed to implement business permit parking on the terms outlined in this report and in the associated TRO; and
(C)	the new scheme be reviewed approximately six months after its implementation.

1.0 Background

1.1 An on-street resident permit zone (RPZ) was implemented in the 'Chantry' area of Bishop's Stortford in April 2012. Demand for parking in the town is high and with this in mind, in 2016,

the Council commissioned a capacity review of its Bishop's Stortford RPZs. This review was published in September 2016.

- 1.2 The review indicated that currently the 'Chantry' RPZ experiences significant underutilisation during the working week and recommended the implementation of business permit parking within this Zone to help make more efficient use of the available space. Officers have spent the past sixteen months designing and consulting on the possible implementation of a business permit parking scheme within the 'Chantry' RPZ.

2.0 Report

History of Scheme Development

- 2.1 The 2016 review confirmed spare capacity of approximately 60% of the total available parking within the 'Chantry' RPZ during the working day and suggested that up to 97 business permit holders could be accommodated within the Zone whilst retaining a buffer of 50% of that spare capacity.
- 2.2 In February 2017 officers conducted additional occupancy studies throughout the Zone which again confirmed spare daytime capacity of at least 60%. A proposal for the introduction of up to 84 business permits was then developed.
- 2.3 Consultation with the East Herts Portfolio Holder and others, including the Chantry Community Association led to further modifications and a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) proposing the sale of up to 50 business season tickets was advertised on 21 September 2017. Affected residents were notified in advance of the TRO's advertisement to encourage participation in the consultation process (**Essential Reference Paper 'B'**).
- 2.4 The first TRO drew 115 objections to the Council's proposals, including a 68 signature petition. A summary of these objections and the Council's response to each can be found at

Essential Reference Paper 'C'. The Council acceded to a number of objections. As a result the proposals were modified and a second TRO proposing the sale of up to 44 permits was advertised on 23 November 2017. Affected residents were again notified before this second TRO was advertised (**Essential Reference Paper 'B'**).

- 2.5 The second TRO drew 47 objections – a significant reduction on the earlier number. A summary of these objections and the Council's response can be found at **Essential Reference Paper 'D'**.
- 2.6 Following consideration officers have overruled the 47 objections. The extensive surveys and careful scheme design they have undertaken leads officers to believe the introduction of business season ticket parking on the terms outlined later in this report would be possible without any significant detriment to existing resident permit holders.
- 2.7 In line with the Council's standing commitment in respect of its RPZs, a review of the new scheme is proposed for approximately six months after implementation. Whilst officers believe the scheme will work satisfactorily, this review would highlight any anomalies that may become apparent during the early months of the scheme.

Nature of the Proposed Scheme

- 2.8 The Council's proposals have evolved considerably as a result of extensive surveys and in response to public consultation. At all times officers' concerns have been to ensure the introduction of business season tickets will not be to the detriment of local residents and a cautious approach to the number and distribution of business permit parking within the Zone has therefore been adopted. The concept of an 'inner' and 'outer' zone has been adopted, based on the proximity of each road to the town centre.

- 2.9 For the purpose of these proposals the 'Chantry' RPZ has been divided into an 'inner' and 'outer' zone based on the distance on foot from a notional point in the centre of Bishop's Stortford (the junction of North and Bridge Streets). Permits in the outer zone will be sold initially at a cost of £400 per annum and permits in the inner zone will retail at £600 per annum. By comparison, a motorist parking in an East Herts car park for five days a week, forty eight weeks a year would pay approximately £1,056 per annum. This relative under-pricing of the on-street permits is deliberate and is aimed at encouraging up to 44 motorists who may currently occupy spaces in an off-street car park to relocate to on-street.
- 2.10 To ensure season ticket holders could not congregate in one or more streets to the detriment of its residents, only a fixed number will be allowed to park in any given street. This would help ensure that no more than 50% of the surplus parking spaces in each affected street could be occupied by business season ticket holders. Season tickets will be valid Monday – Friday only in recognition that many residents are likely to be parked at or near their home address at the weekend. A plan of the season tickets to be offered by zone and road is offered as **'Essential Reference Paper 'E'**.
- 2.11 Eligible businesses have been identified based on their proximity and the likely walking time to and from the 'Chantry' RPZ. These and other terms of operation of the proposed scheme are defined in the TRO.

Additional Proposals

- 2.12 The advertisement of the TRO has been used as an opportunity to make a minor amendment to the operation of the Chantry RPZ. This has reduced slightly the length of the permitted parking in Chantry Road near its junction with Hadham Road to enable safer passing and turning into and out of Chantry Road.

Officer Recommendations

2.13 As advised in 2.6 (above) the 47 objections received in respect of the second TRO advertised on 22 November have been overruled. From a technical and legal perspective this clears the way for the TRO to be made and the new scheme implemented. Members are asked to confirm they wish implementation to take place. Should approval be given officers would aim to implement the scheme in April 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter.

2.14 Although officers are confident that up to 44 business permits can be accommodated within areas of the 'Chantry' RPZ with little or no loss of amenity to residents, Members are asked to approve a review stage, to take place six months after implementation. Should this review indicate that residents have been unreasonably disadvantaged proposals for mitigation will be developed and put before Members.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

- Bishop's Stortford Residents' Parking Zone Review
(*Mott MacDonald, September 2016*)
- The East Hertfordshire District Council (Parking Zone B7, Bishop's Stortford) (Town Centre Business Permit) Order 2017

<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/35566/Parking-Traffic-Regulation-Orders>

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