



HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

County Councillor Derrick Ashley
Executive Member for Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy
Members Support
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Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford SG13 8DN

11th September 2020

Dear Councillor Ashley

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TOWN PROGRAMME – HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL BID

Thank you for your letter of 7 August 2020 and the information it enclosed. Thank you also for your time when you attended the zoom meeting with Town Councillors on Wednesday 9 September 2020.

The Council has given careful consideration to your letter and in particular the list of criteria that the District and Borough Councils would be required to sign up to if they choose to continue to support bid(s) from Town and Parish councils/other organisations in their administrative areas.

Hertford Town Council remains very supportive of the Sustainable Travel Town Programme in delivering the aims of the Local Transport Plan to increase sustainable transport across Hertfordshire.

However, whilst the Town Council has not been asked to comment on or agree the District and Borough criteria, as the submitter of the Hertford STT bid, the Council wishes to provide some comments on the criteria.

The Council is concerned at criteria in relation to parking measures and planning.

As was discussed in the zoom meeting, a blanket ban of free parking in Hertford Town Centre needs very careful consideration as the county town seeks to meet the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The other criterion that causes concern is the requirement to deliver car free housing and to reduce parking standards in new developments when car free housing cannot be delivered. Overspill parking to surrounding streets may occur and

as such create problems for existing residents and businesses in Hertford. Inappropriate parking does on occasion lead to reduced highway safety when sight lines at junctions are reduced by verge parking of vehicles.

Counter Proposal

To mitigate these concerns the Council wishes to take up the positive offer made at the zoom meeting to offer a counter proposal for these elements of the criteria.

Town Centre Parking

It is suggested that a study/review of town centre on street parking can form a committed part of an STT programme for Hertford. The study can undertake a thorough review of parking locations and dwell times (how long the space is used for) and also engage with users to determine their appetite/likely response if town centre on street parking were to start to incur a nominal charge for its use.

The outcome of the study would be considered and appropriate measures be introduced in the STT programme.

Parking at New Development

Successful car free housing schemes rely on two underpinning principles; firstly that there is a full range of services and facilities within convenient walking or cycling distance from the housing site and that on street parking control (CPZ) surround the physical development site.

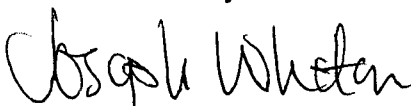
As such it is suggested that East Herts District Council could undertake a study on the viability of car free housing in Hertford that would inform the District Plan review or review of development standards for parking in new development.

Any changes to development parking standards or the introduction of car free housing would inform the STT programme and should not necessarily hold up the award of programme entry.

The STT programme can begin to develop and implement a range of positive and encouraging measures that will lead to greater use of sustainable travel modes in Hertford.

The Council looks forward to the outcome of the Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy Cabinet Panel being held on 8 October 2020.

Yours sincerely



Joseph Whelan