

ST ALBANS CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL

<u>REPORT TO:</u>	Christine Traill, Director for Community and Place Delivery
<u>DATE:</u>	10 th October 2022
<u>REPORT TITLE:</u>	Parking Scheme report, Traffic Regulation Order for Changing Zone A Parking Permit Scheme 2022
<u>WARD/S:</u>	St Peters and Batchwood
<u>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</u>	Lead Councillor for Public Realm, Cllr Helen Campbell
<u>CONTACT OFFICER:</u>	Gary Payne, Specialist Officer (Parking)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Council's lead Councillor for Public Realm, and the Council's Director for Community and Place Delivery, with the background consultation process and information relating to the proposals to make changes to the existing Zone A Voucher and Permit Parking scheme in the City Centre.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council's lead Councillor for Public Realm, and the Council's Director for Community and Place Delivery, agree to make the below named Traffic Regulation Order with the recommendations provided within this report. The TRO will change the existing zone A shared use, Voucher, and residents parking scheme to a resident only parking scheme and implement various other changes as detailed in this report and the proposed Order. The TRO was formally advertised on 1st September 2022 and named below:
- THE ST ALBANS CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL (ZONE A, VARIOUS ROADS, ST ALBANS) (RESTRICTIONS OF STOPPING AND WAITING AND THE PROVISION OF RESIDENTS PARKING AND SHARED USE PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2022

3. Background Information and locations affected by this report

- 3.1 The Council is committed to improving congestion and road safety through various parking restrictions. It is also committed and has a responsibility to review existing parking schemes, especially where those schemes are introduced to manage kerb space and parking provisions.

To implement parking restrictions, the Council must introduce a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) or Parking Places Order (PPO). The process includes a public consultation in the affected area/s / location/s. This scheme and proposed TRO include roads in the centre of the city currently known as the 'Zone A Parking Area'. The changes to the existing scheme are because of several factors. This includes but is not limited to.

- Complaints from residents about limited parking availability due to voucher parking and limited space numbers.
- Car park charges operating on a Sunday to manage parking availability visitors choosing to park in the surrounding roads to avoid car park fees.

- Evening visitors to city restaurants and other businesses parking in residential streets.
- Adjacent zone changing operation times to Monday to Sunday, 8:30am to 10pm.

3.2 Following a review, it was appropriate to revise the current scheme to prioritise kerb space parking for resident permit holders.

Several consultations have been undertaken since around 2017, some changes were implemented in 2017, but it was recognised that more needed to be done to improve residence parking and traffic flow issues.

4. Informal Consultation and Consultation Outcome

4.1 Consultations in Zone A have been ongoing since 2016 and resulting in some changes through a TRO in 2017. However, the results of those consultations have meant more work was required to produce a scheme which was supported more widely within the zone.

4.2 Following the changes in 2017 which were agreed, further consultation was undertaken in 2018/2019. Residents were surveyed and asked questions relating to the zone. Whilst the number of responses was low (around 39%), they did indicate support in general to the changes proposed.

Consultation questions and results for 2018/19. Note, the question numbering is out because we have not included the questions relating to residents' personal data.

Q2. Do you think the times and days of the restrictions should be extended as indicated on the map plans?	Yes	79	50.32%
	Stay the same	66	42.04%
	Be reduced	14	8.92%
Q3. Do you agree with the proposed layout of the parking bays and yellow lines?	Yes	106	67.52%
	No	51	32.48%
	Not Answered	3	1.91%
Q4 Do you believe the number of permits issue should be:	a) Maximum of 2 per property	79	50.32%
	b) Maximum of 1 per property	15	9.55%
	c) Stay the same	51	32.48%
Q5. Do you believe the Visitor Parking Permit system should	a) Remain the same	121	77.07%
	b) Reduced to 12 books per year per property	21	13.38%
	c) Allow Residents to purchase a yearly visitor permit costing £200 instead of visitor permit books	3	1.91%

4.3 It is recognised that under question 2 the percentage of residents indicating no change or a reduced change to the restrictions, would total a higher percentage than that of those who agreed with the change. However, the questions are a guide to how we shape a scheme. The overriding considerations must remain road safety, access, and traffic flow. It is considered that by not making the proposed changes, safety, access, and traffic flow in some of the roads would not be addressed.

- 4.4 Following the 2018/19 informal consultation, the Council amended the proposals to address some of the concerns, this included consideration of the number of responses both overall and to question 2.
- 4.5 The consultation took place in June 2020 and the following changes to the scheme and original proposals were made and detailed to residents.

To improve the availability of resident parking

1. The restricted times to be changed to 8:30am - 10pm (currently 8:30am to 8pm)
2. The restricted days to be changed to Monday – Sunday (currently Monday – Saturday)
3. Removal of Voucher Parking, this is the blue 1-hour vouchers available to all.
4. The number of permits per household reduced from 3 permits to 2 permits.
5. The list of eligible properties will be amended, any roads currently listed as ‘all’ within the Traffic Regulation Order/s will be changed to specify property numbers, see attached proposed list.
6. Britton Avenue – Addition of 2 resident only spaces opposite 3 to 5 Britton Avenue.
7. Upton Avenue - Additional 2 resident only parking spaces outside number 3.

To improve road safety and traffic flow

8. Russell Avenue - Removal of 2 parking spaces in Russell Avenue (currently suspended) to allow larger vehicles to turn and exit via Drovers Way and adhere to the 7.5 tonne lorry limit in Britton Avenue. A loading ban is proposed in this section of Russell Avenue, junction with Britton Avenue.
 9. Stapley Road - Amendment to parking bays west side, by introducing a single yellow line waiting restrictions (Mon to Sun 8:30am – 6:30pm) to assist with traffic movement at busy periods. Remaining time to be resident only from 6:30pm – 10pm and unrestricted 10pm – 8:30am.
 10. Folly Lane - Addition of double yellow lines from 118 to 160 Folly Lane (no parking or waiting for any vehicle during these times). Addition of single yellow lines, restricted waiting 8am to 6:30pm Mon – Sat (no parking or waiting for any vehicle during these times).
- 4.6 It was made clear under this consultation that residents did not need to write in support of the proposals and should only write to us if they objected or had comments to improve or change the proposals. It was also made clear that this was the final stage of informal consultation and that the next stage would be to propose a Traffic Order. From this consultation we received 63 responses,
- 4.7 Whilst some of the objections were against the scheme, the majority objected to the eligible properties list and some of the proposed single yellow lines. Therefore, the Council made changes to the final proposed Traffic Order.

5. Formal Proposal to Make a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)

- 5.1 Following careful consideration, of the informal comments, a proposed traffic order was advertised on 1st September 2022. We made some amendments following comments from the informal proposals and the final TRO was amended as detailed below.

To improve the availability of resident parking

1. The restricted times to be changed to 8:30am - 10pm (currently 8:30am to 8pm)
2. The restricted days to be changed to Monday – Sunday (currently Monday – Saturday)
3. Removal of Voucher Parking, this is the blue 1-hour vouchers available to all (not visitor parking permits available to residents only)
4. The number of permits per household reduced from 3 permits to 2 permits.
5. The list of eligible properties will be amended, any roads currently listed as ‘all’ within the Traffic Regulation Order/s will be changed to specify property numbers and further clarity on eligibility.
6. Britton Avenue – Addition of 2 resident only spaces opposite 3 to 5 Britton Avenue.
7. Upton Avenue - Additional 2 resident only parking spaces outside number 3.
8. Folly Lane – 1 additional parking space opposite number 58 and 60 Folly Lane

To improve road safety and traffic flow

9. Russell Avenue - Removal of 2 parking spaces in Russell Avenue (currently suspended) to allow larger vehicles to turn and exit via Drivers Way and adhere to the 7.5 tonne lorry limit in Britton Avenue. A loading ban is proposed in this section of Russell Avenue, junction with Britton Avenue.
10. Stapley Road – The original proposal for additional yellow lines have been removed and the parking bay design and layout will remain unchanged.
11. Folly Lane - Addition of double yellow lines from 122 to 160 Folly Lane (No waiting for any vehicle during these times). The original proposal of single yellow lines during prescribed hours outside numbers 102 to 122, have been removed and the area concerned will remain unchanged.

- 5.2 The Formal Proposal was advertised for a period of 21 days and residents were sent a letter with details of the changes, a copy of the public notice and details of how to make comments and objections. In addition, we erected notices on existing posts across the zone and put a public notice in the local press. The consultation closed on Friday 23rd September 2022

Formal Objections / Responses and Representations:

6. Following a 21-day consultation period the Council received 12 representations and these are summarised below.

6.1

- 2 representations were in support of the proposals.
- 4 representations objected to the extended days and times. These objections will remain unresolved as the consultation indicates support overall,
- 1 representation commented that their address was missed on the eligible properties list. This was agreed and has been amended.
- 1 representation requested clarification on a bay location, this was resolved.
- 2 representation requested clarification on several eligible properties. After a review it was agreed that the following addresses should be removed from eligibility or added accordingly.
 - Britton Avenue - Remove Flats 1-7, 2 Britton Avenue, Flats A, B, C, 1 Britton Avenue and Flats A, B, C, 3 Britton Avenue
 - Catherine Street – Change the TRO wording to provide further clarity. This will be changed to. Under the schedule amend the wording to: (Not including a building in multiple occupation or a sub-divided dwelling unless otherwise and individually listed) and the definition changed to “sub-divided dwelling” means a property within a property e.g., Flat 1, Flat 2, Flat 3. or a property divided into more than one dwelling e.g., 99, 99a or 99b. This change would be for the entire TRO not just under Catherine Street
 - Etna Road – Ensure that Bakery Mews is listed as excluded from eligibility.
 - Folly Lane – Clarify within the TRO the properties in more detail. The list will change to property numbers: 3, 5, 5a, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 17a, 19 and 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100 and 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 184, 186
 - Selby Avenue – Remove *Flats 1a, b and C*
 - Spencer Street – Add 49, Roman House and remove number 5
 - Stapley Road – Remove Aberfoyle House
 - Upton Avenue – No Changes as those contested already have permit eligibility from previous Order/s and are permit holders.
 - Worley Road – Remove numbers 1, 38, 42, 42a, 42b 42c and Penny Court add number 10
- 1 representation objected to double yellow lines on Folly Lane and requested a 20mph zone along with a crossing. Response provided relating to safety concerns resulting in the double yellow lines and advice provided on requesting 20mph and crossing with HCC.
- 1 representation from outside of the zone objected on various points. Response provided and is unresolved. However, the objections raised have been considered

throughout the consultation and the proposals are supported by most of the residents.

- 6.2** Hertfordshire County Council Highlighted a legislative change The 2007 Regs have been replaced with 2022 Regulations. It was therefore suggested to change areas where the legislation is quoted. E.g., “*penalty charge*” and “*penalty charge notice*” have the same meaning as prescribed by *The Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions (Approved Devices, Charging Guidelines and General Provisions) (England) Regulations 2022* and the provisions of Part 6 and Schedule 9 of the *Traffic Management Act 2004*. This has been amended.
- 6.3** Hertfordshire Constabulary commented that they had no objections.
- 6.4** Various statutory consultees including the Fire and Rescue Service, East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Road Haulage Association, Passenger Transport Unit, Cyclists Touring Club, Freight Transport Association and HCC Land Charges, provided no comments.

Recommendation: It is recommended to make the order as advertised.

7. Ward and County Councillor Comments following the formal consultation and review of this report.

- 7.1 No comments in objection of the proposals or following the final (this) report.

8. Finance

- 8.1 The cost to implement the scheme is estimated as follows.

Materials or Service	Number required	Cost Per Unit	Total Cost
Lining	Various	£1,500.00	£ 1,500.00
Signs	70	£50.00	£ 3,500.00
Posts	10	£110.00	£ 1,100.00
Advertising	2	£ 421.60	£ 843.20
Printing / Postage	-	£1000.00	£ 1,000.00
Officer Time	42.5 Hrs	£21.19	£ 900.57
		Total:	£ 8,843.77

- 8.2 **Note:** These costings are based on previous quotations and may be subject to new quotations being provided once a decision is made on the way forward. It is recommended that a contingency percentage of 20% is added to cover any new quotations or unforeseen officer time or other costings that may be required. £8,843.77 + 20% £1,768.75 = £10,612.52

9. Projected income of the scheme

- 9.1 The projected income on permit schemes is calculated based on an average single permit price across all existing schemes of a similar design. The average cost is £57.00. This is then multiplied by the number of properties across each scheme that purchase a permit within the first year of a new scheme. On average 61% of residents will purchase a permit. However, as this is an existing scheme, it is unlikely that the number of permits sold will increase. Therefore, the projected income will only be based on the price increase for this zone, again, this will be on an average cost based on the increased price and current permits issued.

- 9.2 Number of active permits as of 30th September 2022 is 285. Based on the current permit prices for zone A, this is an average cost of £59.15, which is an income of £16,857.75. If we take the same number of active permits and assign the new proposed permit costs based on the current 7-day scheme permit prices, this gives an average of £68.49 and a total projected income of £19,519.65 a projected difference of 15.79%

10. Will there be Implications for St Albans Council?

Issue	Yes/No	Reference
Policy	No	Unchanged
Financial	Yes	See Paragraphs 8 and 9 of this report.
Impact on the Community	Yes	See Appendix A
Legal and Property	Yes	The TRO/S need to be sealed by Legal
HR/Workforce	Yes	Minimal additional enforcement estimated at 1 hour per week
Risk Assessment	Yes	See Appendix A
Environmental Sustainability	No	See Appendix A

11. Further Information/Appendices

- Appendix A: Equality and Impact Assessment
- Appendix B: Final copies of the scheme maps

12. Report Sign Off –

Portfolio Holder, Climate and Environment	Head of Community Services
Name:	Name:
Date:	Date:
Signature:	Signature:
<u>Cross out below as appropriate;</u>	<u>Cross out below as appropriate;</u>
<i>Agree to Make Traffic Regulation Order/s</i>	<i>Agree to Make Traffic Regulation Order/s</i>
<i>Agree to Abandoned Scheme</i>	<i>Agree to Abandoned Scheme</i>

Please note, for data protection the signatures details have/will be redacted.