

**TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER
INFORMAL CONSULTATION REPORT**
RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING PROPOSALS,
ELM GROVE, BERKHAMSTED



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A PROPOSAL PLAN

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APPENDIX C STATUTORY CONSULTATION LETTER

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

- 1.1.1 Concerns have been raised to local members and the council regarding inappropriate parking by commuters and visitors to the shops on Elm Grove Berkhamsted.
- 1.1.2 Dacorum Borough Council are therefore undertaking a review of the current parking arrangements on Elm Grove Berkhamsted. As part of this review, a site assessment was undertaken by officers in April 2022 and, following this, a design has been produced outlining the proposed changes on the sections of road under investigation.
- 1.1.3 The Council have undertaken both a consultation with residents and businesses who would be affected by the proposals, as well as a consultation with the Statutory Consultees based upon the designed proposals.
- 1.1.4 The purpose of this report is to outline the consultation processes undertaken, the responses received and to make a recommendation on how to proceed.

1.2 Proposals

- 1.2.1 The proposed alterations to the existing parking arrangements on Elm Grove are shown in Appendix A and outlined below:
- Introducing a Permit Parking Area for Permit holders only between Monday to Sunday 8am to 8pm, from the car park entrance to the end of the cul-de-sac.
 - Introducing 'No Waiting at Any Time' (Double Yellow Line) restrictions on the North West side of Elm Grove between the entrance to the Private Car Park and the end of the cul-de-sac.
- 1.2.2 The introduction of a Permit Parking area in Elm Grove will prioritise parking for permit holders (i.e residents), therefore allowing them to park closer to their own properties by preventing commuters and visitors to the local shops from parking there during the restricted hours.

The restricted hours (Mon-Sun 8am-8pm) were chosen specifically to prevent all day commuter parking, daytime and evening visitors to the High Street from parking in Elm Grove.

- 1.2.3 The introduction of No Waiting at Any Time (Double Yellow Line) restrictions aims to control the parking within the Permit Parking area in order to keep it to the one side of the road. Elm Grove is not wide enough to accommodate parking on both sides of the road therefore the proposed restrictions will help to prevent obstruction issues as well as inappropriate parking.

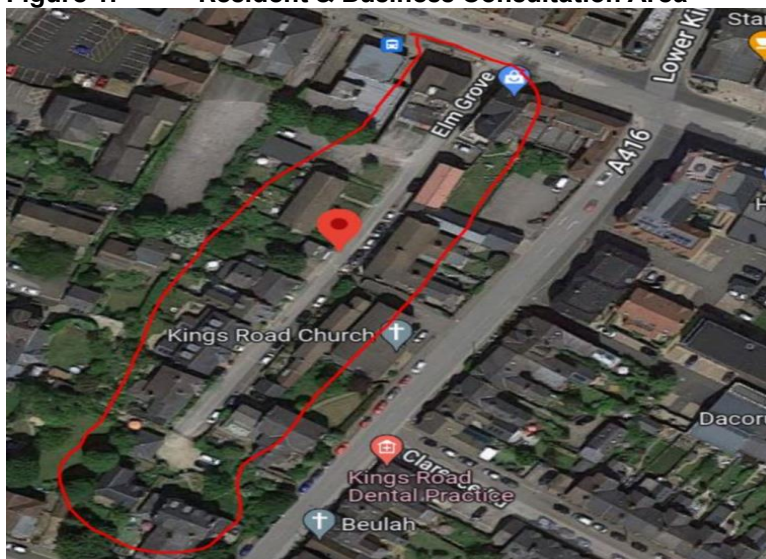
2.0 RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS CONSULTATION

2.1 Methodology

- 2.1.1 Residents and businesses affected by the proposals were consulted over a four-week period from 12th August 2022 to 9th September 2022. A letter, plan as well as information on Permits was posted directly which explained the proposals and the reasoning behind them. Consultees were able to respond via email or post. The letter posted is included as Appendix B.

- 2.1.2 The consultation area is outlined in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Resident & Business Consultation Area



2.1.3 This area comprised a total of approximately 30 addresses.

2.2 Consultation Responses

2.2.1 Following the completion of the consultation process, a total of 13 responses were received. Of these responses 9 were in support, 3 were neither in support or stated an objection and 1 was an objection.

2.2.2 The single objector was concerned that carers would not be able to provide their usual service to disabled residents as they may not qualify for a permit. They also were concerned about other tradesmen who may carry out services to properties within the road and where they would park.

The objector also suggested double parking is not a problem and therefore the No Waiting at Any Time proposals are not required.

Lastly the objector suggested that the hours of the permit parking area may be better suited to 8am – 6pm rather than 8am – 8pm.

2.2.3 One response was received from a business who suggested that they would require access for deliveries and 2 spaces on the road.

2.2.4 Residents and businesses who responded to the consultation were clearly mostly in support of the proposals. Some also raised queries about the permit eligibility and application process but were still in favour.

2.2.5 Some respondents requested that the existing single yellow line restrictions should be replaced with No Waiting at Any Time restrictions at the High Street end of Elm Grove.

2.3 Officers Response

2.3.1 It is apparent from the comments detailed above, garnered during the informal consultation with residents and businesses, that many residents support the permit parking and waiting restrictions proposed.

2.3.2 In response to the objections raised; firstly carers would be able to obtain 'special permits' to gain access to someone in need of care on a regular basis. Residents requiring care are able to apply for a 'Special Permit' which can be done electronically online or if the applicant does not have access to the internet, they can be obtained by calling the councils parking service who can also issue paper versions that can be issued to the carers upon arrival and returned to the resident upon exit from the property.

Tradesmen or people working on properties within the PPA would also be able to make use of visitor permits to allow easy access.

2.3.3 The No Waiting at any time (double yellow line) restrictions are required to accompany the Permit Parking Area as parking bays are not marked out within Permit Parking Areas. Permit Parking Areas rely on terminal signage only meaning you can park with a permit anywhere within the PPA where there is not a waiting (yellow line) restriction present. Therefore, if both sides of the road were left unrestricted and a permit holder parked on the opposite side to where everyone else was parking (causing an obstruction as Elm Grove is incredibly narrow in places) strictly speaking they would be doing so legally within the Permit Parking Area.

2.3.4 In response to concerns raised about business permit parking the following business permit policy will apply should this proposal be implemented;

Businesses are eligible for permits if:

- There is no space to park within the boundary of your premises
- You have one or more operational vehicles registered to the business, and
- You are registered for business rates.

Each business in a Controlled Parking Zone can have up to two registration numbers registered on the permit, but both vehicles must be operational vehicles.

An operational vehicle is one that is used for collections and deliveries. A vehicle must be less than 5.25 metres long and no more than 2.3 metres high. If a vehicle is only used to get to and from work, it does not count as an operational vehicle.

A business permit can only use the parking permit in the Controlled Parking Zone that it was issued for.

The business in question will therefore be able to apply for a permit and the council will assess its eligibility against the criteria accordingly.

The proposed scheme will not change existing delivery/access/loading/unloading arrangements.

- 2.3.5 In response to requests for the existing single yellow line restrictions at the High Street end of Elm Grove to be converted into No Waiting at Any Time (double yellow line) restrictions; the single yellow lines were left as they are to retain additional parking for residents/visitors after the busy periods of the day (i.e between 6.30pm and 8.30am).

2.4 Conclusion

- 2.4.1 The receipt of 1 Objection from a total of 30 consultees represents approximately 3% of consultees objecting to the scheme. This clearly therefore demonstrates that the majority of residents and businesses consulted consider the proposals to be acceptable.

3.0 STATUTORY CONSULTATION

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The Statutory Consultees were consulted over the period from 15th August 2022 to 5th September 2022. A letter and plan were emailed directly, and consultees were invited to submit any comments via email. There was a total of 19 consultees. The letter sent is included as Appendix C.

3.2 Consultation Responses

- 3.2.1 A total of 2 responses were received from the Statutory Consultees.
- 3.2.2 A response was received from Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service raising no objections. A response was also received from the Traffic Management Officer stating that there was no objection to the proposed scheme.

3.3 Officers Response

- 3.3.1 It is apparent from the comments detailed above, that the Statutory Consultees who responded have no objections to the proposals.

3.4 Conclusion

- 3.4.1 In light of the responses received, it is clear that the statutory consultees do not object to the proposals.

4.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Dacorum Borough Council have undertaken an extensive consultation process with 30 potentially affected residents and businesses in the area surrounding the proposals on Elm Grove, Berkhamsted. 1 Objection (3%) was raised, suggesting that a clear majority of those that responded to the consultation consider the scheme to be acceptable and are in favour of it.
- 4.2 The Objections received have been analysed and responded to in sections 2 and 3 of this report.
- 4.3 A Statutory Consultation process has also been undertaken with the Statutory Consultees. Two responses were received, both of which did not offer any objections to the proposals.
- 4.4 In light of the above, it is recommended that the scheme is progressed to the statutory public TRO consultation process in order to progress the proposals to the delivery phase of the TRO process.

