

**TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER
INFORMAL CONSULTATION REPORT
WAITING RESTRICTION PROPOSALS,
THE DENES, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD**



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CONTENTS

		Page No
1.0	INTRODUCTION	
1.1	Context	1
1.2	Proposals	1
2.0	RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS CONSULTATION	
2.1	Methodology	2
2.2	Consultation Responses	3
2.3	Officers Response	3
2.4	Conclusion	4
3.0	STATUTORY CONSULTATION	
3.1	Methodology	5
3.2	Consultation Responses	5
3.3	Officers Response	6
3.4	Conclusion	6
4.0	SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION	6

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	PROPOSAL PLAN
APPENDIX B	RESIDENTS CONSULTATION LETTER
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 on Pinecroft, Barnacres Road, Georgewood Road and The Denes Hemel Hempstead. Concerns have also been raised in relation to the turnover of spaces in The Denes, lack of spaces for the residents to park in the evenings and disabled parking provision.

1.1.2 Dacorum Borough Council are therefore undertaking a review of the current parking arrangements on Pinecroft, Barnacres Road, Georgewood Road and The Denes. 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 Barnacres, Pinecroft, Georgewood Road & The Denes are shown in Appendix A and outlined below:

- Introducing 'No Waiting at Any Time' (Double Yellow Line) restrictions on the north side of Pinecroft at the entrance to The Denes, on both sides of Barnacres Road between Pinecroft and The Denes northern access as well as at the junction of Georgewood Road & Barnacres Road.
- Introducing Limited Waiting (Monday – Sunday, 8am – 7pm, 2 hours, no return within 2 hours) parking bays in the Denes.
- Retain the 2 Disabled badge holders only spaces in the Denes.

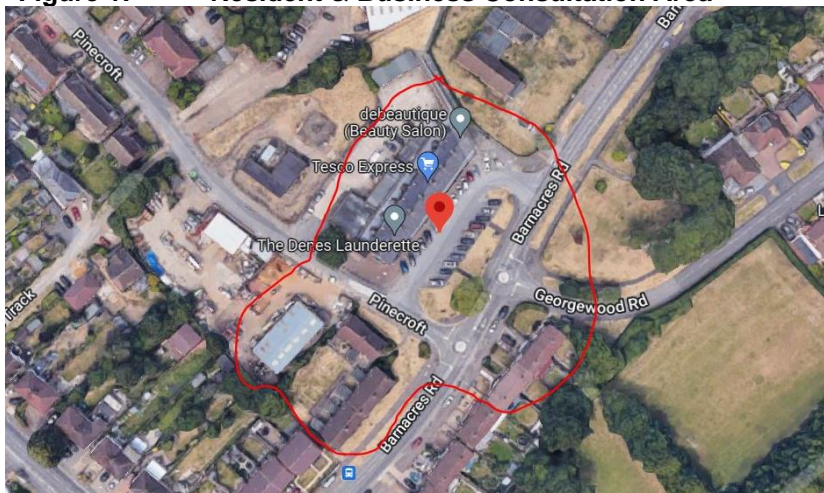
- 1.2.2 The introduction of No Waiting at Any Time (Double Yellow Line) restrictions aims to prevent inconsiderate parking by visitors to the local shops, as well as residents in and around the various junctions in the area. This will ensure visibility and access is maintained and will help to improve road safety not just for vehicles but also for both pedestrians and cyclists.
- 1.2.3 The introduction of Limited Waiting 'Monday to Sunday 8am to 7pm' restrictions will aid the turnover of spaces in front of the shops at The Denes by introducing a 'maximum stay of 2 hours' and 'no return within 2 hours' stipulation. This will also improve the chances for residents of obtaining a space for evening, overnight and early to mid-morning parking if required.

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 27th July 2022 to 19th August 2022. A letter & plan 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 32 addresses.

2.2 Consultation Responses

- 2.2.1 Following the completion of the consultation process, a total of 3 responses were received. Of these responses 2 were objecting to the proposals (1 of these objections was a petition with 7 signatures on) and 1 partially supported/did not object with suggested improvements.
- 2.2.2 **Objections;** One objection concerned the loss of parking for residents of the flats above the shops in The Denes by the introduction of Limited Waiting bays which would prioritise shoppers.
- 2.2.3 An objection and petition with 7 signatures was also received, from residents of a Local Authority owned block of Warden Controlled flats opposite the access to The Denes (at the junction of Pinecroft & Barnacres Road) suggesting that the proposals would cause further loss of on street parking spaces both at The Denes and the surrounding roads.
- 2.2.4 Several comments were made in relation to constructing more off-street parking for residents should the proposed restrictions be implemented.
- 2.2.5 One response was received from a resident who suggested that they would be prepared to support the proposals should the council install CCTV and street lighting in the car park to the rear of The Denes to make it a safer place to leave a vehicle overnight following a past experience of vehicle crime occurring here.

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 some residents who responded to the consultation were not in support of the proposals put forward.

- 2.3.2 However, in response to the objections raised; The Council has to strike a balance between providing short term visitor spaces for the businesses located at The Denes which there is a clear demand for during the daytime trading hours, with the parking requirements of the local residents.
- 2.3.3 It is considered that the Limited Waiting (Monday – Sunday, 8am – 7pm, 2 hours, no return within 2 hours) bays proposed are the most suitable compromise between achieving a greater turnover of spaces for visitors of the shops as well as offering residents the opportunity to park here in the evenings, overnight and until mid-morning (5pm -10am).
- 2.3.4 It is also apparent that there is off street parking available to residents of The Denes to the rear of the property which they could utilise.
- 2.3.5 The No Waiting at any time (double yellow line) restrictions are proposed on safety grounds around junctions & roundabouts. They will improve visibility for all road users by ensuring parking does not occur at junctions or on footways in the vicinity of these junctions.

2.4 Conclusion

- 2.4.1 Although some objections have been received by local residents the council must consider its duties under the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTRA) 1984. According to the RTRA1984, it is the duty of a highway authority to ‘manage their road network’ and ‘to improve road safety’. Section 122 of the RTRA 1984 states that local authorities must, so far as is practicable, exercise their functions under the RTRA so as to ‘secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of traffic’. Additionally, Section 1 of the RTRA states the permitted purposes of a TRO which include ‘avoiding danger to road users’ and ‘preserving/improving the amenities in the area’. It is therefore prudent that parking should be prevented where it is unsafe to do so ‘at any time’ and Limited Waiting restrictions are implemented where there is a requirement to do so due to dual requirements of visitors and local residents such as at The Denes.

2.4.2 Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 also states that local authorities must exercise their functions under the RTRA so as to 'provide suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway'. It is important to maintain a balance when imposing parking restrictions so as not to be 'over restrictive'. The proposals seek to improve road safety and amenity on Barnacres, Pinecroft, Georgewood Road & The Denes whilst allowing parking where it is safe to do so.

2.4.3 The Highway Code Rule 242 states 'You MUST not leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road'. In addition, Highway Code Rule 243 states 'DO NOT stop or park opposite or within 10 meters of a junction'. In order to ensure that the Highway Code Rules 242 and 243 are complied with at all times, a Traffic Regulation Order comprising the recommended 'No Waiting at Any Time' (Double Yellow Line) restrictions should be progressed in order to make the current parking habits illegal and enforceable at all times.

3.0 STATUTORY CONSULTATION

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 The Statutory Consultees were consulted over the period from 4th August 2022 to 23rd August 2022. A letter and plan were emailed directly, and consultees were invited to submit any comments via email. The letter sent is included as Appendix C.

3.2 Consultation Responses

3.2.1 A total of 4 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 Unit at Hertfordshire Police Constabulary stating that there was no objection to the proposed scheme.

3.2.3 Jan Maddern Dacorum Borough Ward Councillor expressed her full support for the proposals.

- 3.2.4 Nash Mills Parish Council stated that they had no objection but requested that the No Waiting at Any Time (double yellow line) restrictions are extended further up into Georgewood Road to protect the sharp bend on the approach to the mini roundabout and to prevent parking on the grass verges.

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 and that local stakeholders broadly support the proposals consulted upon.
- 3.3.2 The Council also agrees with the Parish Councils request to extend the No Waiting at Any Time restrictions on Georgewood Road to cover the bend and prevent parking on the verge.

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. The Council has also considered the Parish Councils response to further extend the No Waiting at Any Time proposals into Georgewood Road and agrees that it would be prudent to include this extension should the proposals be progressed to the statutory TRO consultation.

4.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Dacorum Borough Council have undertaken an extensive consultation process with potentially affected residents and businesses in the area surrounding the proposals on Pinecroft, Barnacres Road, Georgewood Road and The Denes Hemel Hempstead. A small amount of objections were received by local residents concerned about the lack of on street parking availability suggesting that these proposals would make the situation worse.
- 4.2 The objections received have been analysed and responded to in section 2 of this report.

- 4.3 A Statutory Consultation process has also been undertaken with the Statutory Consultees. Four responses were received, all of which did not offer any objections to the proposals. Nash Parish Council requested an extension to the No Waiting at Any Time (double yellow line) restrictions on Georgewood Road and the council agrees with this request.
- 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 implement the proposals, to include the additional No Waiting at Any Time restrictions on Greenwood Road requested by the Parish Council.