



**TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER  
INFORMAL CONSULTATION REPORT  
WAITING RESTRICTION PROPOSALS,  
ANCHOR LANE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD**



**Client:** Dacorum Borough Council

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## REPORT CONTROL

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Context**

1.1.1 Concerns have been raised to local members and the Council regarding inappropriate parking on Anchor Lane near to its junction with Heath Lane. Concerns have also been raised with regards to vehicles parking in close proximity to the mini roundabout junction between Anchor Lane and Beechfield Road.

1.1.2 Dacorum Borough Council are therefore undertaking a review of the current parking arrangements on Anchor Lane & Beechfield Road, Hemel Hempstead. 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 Anchor Lane & Beechfield Road, are shown in Appendix A and outlined below:

- Introducing 'No Waiting at Any Time' (Double Yellow Line) restrictions on the North and South sides of Anchor Lane at its junction with Beechfield Road.
- Introducing 'No Waiting at Any Time' (Double Yellow Line) restrictions on Beechfield Road opposite its junction with Anchor Lane on the West side.
- Introducing 'No Waiting at Any Time' (Double Yellow Line) restrictions on Beechfield Road on the East side, north of its junction with Anchor Lane to a point at the boundary of 38 Beechfield Road.

- Extending the existing No Waiting at Any Time restrictions on Anchor Lane at its junction with Heath Lane on both sides of the road up to the existing speed table.
- 1.2.2 The introduction of No Waiting at Any Time (Double Yellow Line) restrictions on Anchor Lane and Beechfield Road aims to; To prevent inappropriate parking at or near to the mini roundabout junction of Anchor Lane & Beechfield Road, maintain good visibility at the junction, prevent parking on the verge along Beechfield Road and to ensure the safe, convenient, and expeditious movement of traffic.
- 1.2.3 The introduction of No Waiting at Any Time (Double Yellow Line) restrictions on Anchor Lane at its junction with Heath Lane aims to; prevent inappropriate parking close to the junction of Anchor Lane & Heath Lane, to prevent double parking in the vicinity of the junction and to ensure the safe, convenient, and expeditious movement of traffic.

## **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 29th September 2022 to 27<sup>th</sup> October 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 letters posted are included as Appendix B.
- 2.1.2 The consultation areas are outlined in Figures 1 & 2 below.

**Figure 1: Resident & Business Consultation Area – Anchor Lane/Beechfield Road**



**Figure 2: Resident & Business Consultation Area – Anchor Lane/Heath Lane**



## 2.2 Consultation Responses

2.2.1 Following the completion of the consultation process, a total of 3 responses were received for the proposals at Anchor Lane/Beechfield Road. Of these responses; 2 were objecting to the proposals and 1 did not object but suggested the funding could be better utilised on pothole repairs.

No objections or comments were received in relation to the proposals on Anchor Lane at its junction with Heath Lane.

2.2.2 **Objections;** One objection concerned the extent of the proposed No Waiting at Any Time restrictions on the east side of Beechfield Road and also suggested that the restrictions should be placed on the western side of Beechfield Road between the two mini roundabouts.

2.2.3 The second objection was similar in nature to the first in that it suggests the restrictions go too far to the south of the southern most mini roundabout on Beechfield Road and removes on street parking capacity for visitors.

## 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 although they were few in number.

2.3.2 However, in response to the objections raised; the Council has to strike a balance between allowing on street visitor parking where it is safe to do so and preventing inconsiderate parking close to junctions, within visibility splays and on grass verges maintained by the Council.

2.3.3 After some reflection the Council understands the objectors' point of view to some degree and will agree to scale back the No Waiting at Any Time Proposals on the east side of Beechfield Road by approximately 30m, retaining 20m (of No Waiting at Any Time) south of the southernmost mini roundabout. This will allow some additional on street parking where the Council considers it safe to do so whilst still restricting parking close to either mini roundabouts and preventing parking on the wide grass verge adjacent to Beechfield Road.

## **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 RTRA 1984, 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'.

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 Anchor Lane & Beechfield Road 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.



2.4.4 After considering the above legislation and guidance as well as the original reasoning behind the proposals, the Council considers it prudent that parking should be prevented where it is unsafe to do so 'at any time' predominantly as originally proposed. However, the Council accepts the request to scale back the proposals on the east side of Beechfield Road as detailed above in 2.3.3 as upon reflection the southern extents of the restrictions proposed are not considered necessary on safety grounds.

## **3.0 STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

### **3.1 Methodology**

3.1.1 The Statutory Consultees were consulted over the period from 3rd November 2022 to 24<sup>th</sup> November 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 5 responses were received from the Statutory Consultees.

3.2.2 A response was received from the Traffic Management Unit at Hertfordshire Police Constabulary stating that there was no objection to the proposed scheme.

3.2.3 William Allen Dacorum Borough Ward Councillor expressed his full support for the proposals.

3.2.4 Simy Dhyani, also Dacorum Borough Council Ward Councillor for Boxmoor, stated that she had no objection but requested that additional restrictions were placed on Beechfield Road to prevent parking on pavements and grass verges in the area.

3.2.5 Further responses were received in support of the proposals from Hertfordshire Council Strategy and Programme as well as School Crossing Patrol Teams.

### **3.3 Officers Response**

- 3.3.1 It is apparent from the comments detailed above, that the Statutory Consultees who responded broadly support the proposals.
- 3.3.2 The Council also agrees to some extent with Cllr Dhyani's comments in relation to providing additional restrictions on Beechfield Road to prevent parking on the footways particularly on the western side between the two mini roundabouts. The Council must stick to the scope of the original brief however and therefore will not be proposing any further restrictions beyond Beechfield Road's junctions with Anchor Lane.

### **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 Cllr Dhyanis request for additional restrictions in the area and therefore will include additional No Waiting at Any Time proposals on Beechfield Road (on the west side between the two min roundabouts) should the proposals be progressed to the statutory public 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 Anchor Lane & Beechfield Road, Hemel Hempstead. A small number of objections were received by local residents concerned about the proposed restrictions being over restrictive and reducing on street parking availability.
- 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. Five responses were received, all of which did not offer any objections to the proposals. Councillor Dhyani requested additional No Waiting at Any Time (double yellow line) restrictions on Beechfield Road to prevent pavement parking and the Council agrees with this request providing it is within the scope of the original brief for this scheme.
- 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; additional No Waiting at Any Time restrictions on the west side of Beechfield Road (between the mini roundabouts) and the small reduction in the No Waiting at Any Time restrictions proposed on the east side of Beechfield Road, south of the southernmost mini roundabout as per the diagram in Appendix D.