

Proposed extension of operational hours for
Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) J & K.

Informal Consultation (February 2023) - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is the council reviewing the operational hours of Controlled Parking Zones J & K?

Residents and elected members have expressed a desire to extend the operational hours of the Controlled Parking Zones J & K, due to the difficulties residents are having gaining access to kerb side space, especially during evenings. The increase in newer 'car lite' and 'car free' developments in the area also leads to a concern from existing residents that there will be an increase in demand for kerb side space.

2. Is this informal consultation final?

No, but we would appreciate the views of as many residents/businesses within the zones, so we can take the necessary steps going forward, and proceed on the basis of support from those affected who live and work in the area.

3. What is being proposed for the operational hours of Controlled Parking Zones J & K and why?

The existing operational hours of CPZs J & K are: **Monday to Saturday 8am – 6.30pm with match day hours**. Match day hours occur on first team match days of Watford Football Club, on Weekday evenings: 6pm to 10pm & Sundays 1pm to 6.30pm

The proposed operational hours of CPZs J & K are: **Monday to Sunday 8am – 10pm**.

4. Why is the council asking residents whether they are content with the existing operating hours of the zone?

This is an opportunity for residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to have their say on parking in their area and let the council know whether they are content with the current availability of parking spaces or support the proposal or to extend the existing operational hours.

Should the majority of residents responding to the consultation suggest that they are happy with the existing operating hours in the CPZ's Zones, then the proposals would not be taken forward.

5. If residents vote for extended hours what happens next?

If a majority of residents respond to this consultation in favour of an extension of the operational hours, then the council will embark on a new Traffic Regulation Order amendment. This will require a further formal stage of Statutory Consultation, which will again provide an opportunity for comment or objection prior to any scheme being introduced.

6. Will there be any changes to the existing terms and conditions of the Permit entitlement?

Existing permits will still be valid and charged at the standard cost. These are standard across all CPZs in Watford.

Due to the increase in operational hours, and to aid residents who require visitor permits, the annual 'visitor voucher' entitlement per household will be increased.

From the existing (Monday to Saturday 8am to 6.30pm)

Visitor voucher entitlement: 690 hours, which includes 15 x 1 day vouchers and 2 x 1 week permits

To proposed (Monday to Sunday 8am to 10pm)

Visitor voucher entitlement: 980 hours which includes 20 x 1 day vouchers and 2 x 1 week permits.

Across all zones, senior citizens are able to request double the allocation entitlement.

7. Why is there only one option for the proposed hours – I would like different hours?

Offering differing time options to residents is likely to lead to a 'split vote' with no consensus on one particular time. By offering one option, the Council can see whether the majority of residents support the proposals to extend hours or not.

The Council has to consider the borough as whole and ensure waiting restrictions are fair and consistent to road users. The proposed hours of Monday to Sunday 8am to 10pm reflect that of CPZs in operation in Zone A,B, C, E and G, which have been successful in ensuring permit holders have priority for parking in bays during evenings and weekends, when demand for parking is at its highest.

8. If only certain roads support the changes, will we have new zones?

No, the zones are being consulted on as a whole and there are no current proposals to amend the zone boundaries. The results will be reviewed on a zone basis, whilst residents in some roads may have a differing opinion to neighbouring roads, the council needs to consider the zone in its entirety.

9. Who are we engaging?

The survey is being posted to all properties, within the boundaries of Zones J & K regardless of whether they have permits or not, as changes may affect all residents and businesses within the zone.

10. Have you informed Watford Football Club & Watford General Hospital?

Although not technically within the zone, the council have informed the Football Club & Hospital Trust of the proposed changes out of courtesy, as part of the informal consultation.

11. What will happen to the Pay & Display Bays in CPZs J & K?

These bays will remain, but to ensure a consistent approach with times of the zone, the operational hours will be increased to 8am-10pm 7 days a week. These will still enable permit holders to park within the bays but enable shorter term visitor parking for up to 2 hours.

12. The Single Yellow Lines are used for 'overspill' parking will these change as well?

Yes, to ensure the integrity of the zone and operational hours, the existing Single Yellow Line (No Waiting Mon-Sat 8am-630pm with Match day hours) will be amended to No Waiting Monday to Sunday 8am to 10pm. This will ensure there is no confusion for drivers entering the zones and reduce 'sign clutter' in the area.

13. Will the Double Yellow Lines (No Waiting At Any Time) stay?

Yes, the double yellow lines (No Waiting at Any Time), will remain in the existing locations as they are provided for road safety purposes, around junctions etc.

14. I have an Advisory Disabled Bay/Access Protection Marking will they stay?

Yes, the proposals will not amend any existing advisory disabled bays or access protection markings.

15. Will there be an increase in bay sizes/capacity for permit holders?

No, all existing bay markings and waiting restrictions will remain as they are. There is no scope in areas to increase bay lengths, and the proposal is based on the operational hours of the area, not changes or increases to on-street spaces.

16. As a permit holder will I now be guaranteed a space?

No, having a permit does not mean a guarantee of being able to have a space in the area. The increase in operational hours will mean that there will be a wider range of hours where permit holders have 'priority' over non permit holders to find a kerb side space.

17. My business operates into the evening where will my customers park?

The existing Pay & Display provision will remain for shorter term parking, up to 2 hours.

18. How will the extension of the hours affect establishments like places of worship?

If permit times were to be extended to 10pm Monday to Saturday and include Sunday, this may impact visitors to places of worship. Short term parking is available within the Pay & Display areas.

19. What happens next?

Following the informal consultation, the results will be analysed and reviewed by council officers, the Portfolio Holder for Transport and local Ward Councillors. A letter will be posted to properties informing them of a summary of the results and next steps. The results of the informal consultation will determine the next steps of the of the proposals.