

Proposed Permit Parking Area (PPA) – Sandringham Road Area. **(Zone NB) Frequently Asked Questions**

Consultation

1. Why is this consultation taking place?

The council has received correspondence from residents within the area, expressing their difficulties with being able to find kerb side space for parking near their properties. Local Ward Councillors have also carried out engagement with residents on whether there is support for a Parking Permit Area.

Through undertaking this informal consultation, we are engaging with all residents and businesses in the area to understand the desire of those who live in the area to pursue any further parking controls.

2. Why now?

Residents of the area were asked if they supported a Permit Parking Area in 2019/2020 and at the time there was no majority support for the proposed Permit Parking which was promoted as Mon-Fri 10am-12noon. Therefore, this was not progressed. As five years have now passed since this consultation, views from residents may have changed in relation to parking demand.

3. How can I respond to the consultation?

The consultation questionnaire can be found at www.watford.gov.uk/zonenb

For those without internet access, residents can telephone 01923226400 and/or request a paper version-based form.

For those filling the form out on line, you do not need a 'My Watford' account, but if you do have one this will prepopulate your address

4. What will happen to the results of this consultation?

All results will be reported to your local Ward Councillors and Portfolio Holder and a decision made on whether or not to proceed with the proposals to a further statutory consultation stage.

Once the consultation exercise has been completed and a decision made, we will write again to residents to inform them of the outcome. The decision report and results (on a per street basis) will be published on the Council website.

5. When is the consultation open?

The consultation runs from Friday 14th November to Friday 5th December 2025

6. Who is being consulted.

All addresses within the 'consultation zone' have been posted the consultation form.

7. Is it one response per household or per person.

Yes, as there will only be one permit account holder per address, so a decision needs to be made per address.

Permit Parking Area Zone NB – Sandringham Road Area

8. Why is this a distinct Zone to the rest of Callowland (eg Zone NA)

These zones are based on differing requirements and resident needs. This area is distinct and 'self-enclosed' lending itself to be its own unique zone and the hours of operation will be different.

In addition, if this area and the existing Zone NA were merged this zone this would be too large for practical reasons and there may be vehicles driving to different parts of the zone.

It is proposed this Zone, which includes: The public highway sections of Sandown Road, Sandringham Road, Osborne Road, Windsor Road, Parkgate Road, Buckingham Road, Neston Road and Balmoral Road (between St Albans Road and Bradshaw Road) is named 'NB' for administrative purposes.

9. Why are the hours of operation set in the consultation?

The hours of operation proposed are Monday-Saturday 5pm-10pm.

These have been chosen by the Portfolio Holder and your local Ward Councillors, following consultations they have carried out. The hours have been chosen to mitigate local parking concerns and help secure parking for residents, when this is most in demand, without impacting schools and businesses, in the vicinity. Previous consultations have not been supported based on hours, earlier in the day.

Offering options of different time periods leads to a split vote and a consensus is unlikely to be reached by the majority of residents in relation to a single time period. By offering one option, the Council can see whether the majority of residents support a scheme or not.

10. How does the Permit Parking Area work?

The Permit Parking Area (PPA) will have signed entry points at the entry points and repeater signs within the Zone. There will be no dedicated marked bays, as the entry signs indicate 'parking past this point'. All vehicles parked within the PPA during the operational times will need to display a permit.

11. Can individual roads opt out of being in the zone if there is no resident support?

The integrity of the scheme relies on this being an area wide scheme, therefore even if the majority of a residents in one road, are against the proposal, the scheme may still proceed based on the support of the wider area. The exclusion of individual roads will lead to an 'island effect' and this road is likely to see an increase in displaced parking and future issues with parking demand.

12. Will existing parking restrictions eg No Waiting At Any Time or No Stopping on School Zigs still apply.

Yes, the existing restrictions will not be amended as part of the proposed Permit Parking Area and will still apply.

13. I have a marked Disabled Bay or Access Protection Marking (H Bar) will these still apply.

Yes, as with the formal waiting restrictions noted above the existing Disabled Bays or Access Protection Markings will still remain.

Permit Parking Areas

14. A Permit Parking Area (PPA) is being introduced in my area, what does it mean?

In a Permit Parking Area (PPA), all streets are subject to parking controls and vehicles may park only when displaying a valid permit for that PPA during the operational hours. The operational times of the PPA are indicated on entry signs as you enter the area/zone with residents and their visitors being given priority throughout the hours of operation. A PPA generally allows for more parking capacity as bays are not formally marked and residents are able to park across their dropped kerbs (vehicle crossovers) during the operational hours, provided that any cars parked across dropped kerbs have valid resident or visitor permits during the operational hours.

15. Are private developments excluded from the PPA.

Yes, where there are multiple properties with private access roads with their own off street parking areas, these addresses will not be eligible for a Permit. This includes Chiswell Court, and 18-100 Southwold Road.

These properties are being consulted are, as they use the roads where the PPA is proposed to access their properties, but they would not be eligible for a permit to park on street, during the operational hours of the zone.

16. Why are the industrial units not being consulted on informally.

The area of Sandown Road between Windsor Road and Bushey Mill Lane is a private road which has its own parking arrangements for the businesses use. They would not be eligible for permits. At this stage, this is an informal consultation to gauge any level of support from residents who would be most affected by any proposal for permit parking.

17. Who can apply for a Resident's Permit, how many can I have and how much do they cost?

Resident's Permits are issued to residents whose vehicle is registered at an address within the proposed area. **The limit is two permits per household (maximum of one permit per person)** and the vehicle must not exceed 5.25m in length (up to a standard, Ford, Transit) and 2.3m in height. The Cost of resident parking permits in November 2025 are as follows:

- First permit - £34
- Second permit - £73
- Motorcycle permits - £34
- Blue Badge Drivers or parents/ guardians of blue badge holders 18 years old and under - free

Permits are valid for a 12-month period.

18. What will happen to residents who own more than two cars?

For Permit Areas to have a positive effect we can't offer more than two permits to each household – due to the availability of on-street parking areas. Therefore, households with three vehicles or more will have to make alternative arrangements for their additional vehicles during the operational times of the permit area.

19. How does the council control the number of permits? If every house asks for two, but the council knows there are only limited spaces, will the council cap the number sold?

The Council will not cap the number of permits, the current policy of two permits per household was adopted following a review of on street parking spaces in Watford when the council first introduced Controlled Parking Zones. The Council excludes new developments from permit eligibility to help maintain the level of demand for on-street parking spaces from existing residents.

20. I am a blue badge holder (disabled badge holder) can I apply for a resident permit?

If you are a resident within the zone and a driver you can apply for a resident permit. If you supply confirmation that you hold a valid blue badge (disabled badge), along with proof of residency and vehicle ownership, the permit will be issued free of charge. During the operational times of the zone the permit must be valid.

21. How would a business qualify for a business permit?

The business will need to be at an address that is included within the zone and provide documentation to confirm that the business pays business rates along with documents to confirm that the vehicles are registered to the business.

The business must have no off-street parking facilities/parking space within their business premises.

If businesses meet the criteria they can apply for one business permit per business to use on two operational vehicles. This is only applicable to operational vehicles, not vehicles which allow employees to commute to work.

22. What happens next?

Once the informal consultation deadline has closed the results and comments will be collated and analysed by council officers and local councillors prior to a summary and results letter that will be sent to residents. The results will determine what the next steps, if any, there will be. This may either be not to progress with a scheme or to progress which will involve a further statutory consultation stage. All properties within the area will be informed of the decision by letter.

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