

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 17/07/2023

Subject: Consideration of petition: "Caxton Village (W12) Parking Problems"

Report of: Councillor Sharon Holder - Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Report author: Mark Fanneran, Head of Service Development, Parking Services

Responsible Director: John Galsworthy, Director of Climate Change and Transport

SUMMARY

On 16 May 2023, residents from six streets in the Shepherds Bush Green area launched a petition seeking the Council to introduce the following changes to parking controls:

- (a) increase the parking restrictions to 24 hours a day, seven days a week permit holders only**
- (b) no blue badge parking except for resident and resident visitor parking permit holders (as is the case in nearby MacFarlane Road)**
- (c) increase resource and time period for enforcement patrols to support these greater restrictions**

By the petition end date of 20 June 2023, 272 signatures had been collected, which warrants a consideration by the Cabinet as the number of signatories exceeds the 250 threshold.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To complete a parking stress survey exercise, to get necessary data on parking stress and the split between resident and visitor parking in the affected area.
 2. To undertake a parking consultation of residents and seek views on making changes to the parking hours of control.
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Wards Affected: Shepherds Bush Green

Financial Impact

The cost of undertaking a parking consultation of residents in the affected area will be met from existing parking budgets.

Gary Hannaway, Head of Parking Finance, 5 July 2023

Legal Implications

The Council has power to impose parking restrictions on roads where it is the highway authority under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. It is under a duty to manage the road network to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic under the Traffic Management Act 2004.

The report recommends that a process of consultation takes place in relation to possible changes to the parking restrictions in the Caxton Village area. Such consultation will need to be accompanied by sufficient information to enable those consulted to make an informed response, will need to set out the proposed changes and will need to allow a reasonable amount of time for the responses. The outcome of the consultation will need to be taken into account by the Council in making a decision about the proposed changes.

John Sharland, Senior solicitor (Contracts and procurement), 7 July 2023

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Proposals and Analysis of Options

1. The petition was created by residents in a group of residential streets located in close proximity to Shepherds Bush Green and Westfield Shopping Centre. The area consists of the following streets: Bulwer Street, Aldine Street, Caxton Road, Tadmor Street, Sterne Street and Shepherd's Bush Place.
2. These streets have a high number of non-resident vehicles parking in the area, with visitors frequenting shops, restaurants and eateries in Shepherds Bush Green, Shepherds Bush Market and Westfield.
3. In addition to visitor parking, fast food delivery vehicles had parked on the residential streets whilst they waited to pick up orders from local takeaways. In 2022, the Council tackled the food delivery issue by introducing new restrictions that meant that only residents with a motorcycle permit were permitted to park in Caxton Village. New motorcycle bays were then introduced on Shepherds Bush Green and Wood Lane, meaning any delivery bikes displaced from the residential streets had somewhere to park whilst they waited for deliveries.
4. Residents have also referenced the large volume of disabled badge holders who park in the area, which is significantly higher to other parts of the borough. High parking stress means that spaces for residents are at a premium.
5. Residents have engaged with the Council regularly on other matters linked to parking, resulting in complaints concerning noise, littering and anti-social behaviour.
6. It is clear therefore that changes to the hours of parking control would change the dynamic of residential/visitor parking in the area, prioritising parking space for residents.

7. As a starting point, we would undertake a parking stress survey to evaluate the parking stress in the area and get a better understanding of the makeup of resident and visitor parking.
8. Although residents have proposed 24-hour enforcement, such changes are not possible for the Council to implement. Once the parking stress data is evaluated, we would be in a better position to propose necessary changes to the hours of parking control.
9. The decision to stop blue badge holders from parking within Caxton Village would need further analysis and review. In addition to the parking survey data, we will invite our blue badge fraud team to provide input into their findings of surveillance.

Reasons for Decision

10. Under the Council's Petitions Scheme, a petition which attracts 250 valid signatures (of people who live, work or study in the borough) triggers consideration of the petition by Cabinet. This petition meets this criterion.
11. Consulting with all residents in the local area would allow the Council to get the views of everyone affected and take appropriate action based on the feedback.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Implications

12. Making changes to the parking restrictions in Caxton Village would result in less vehicles parking and sat idling on those residential streets, helping to reduce emission levels and improve air quality, both key environmental targets the Council is currently focusing on, as part of our Clean Air Neighbourhood strategy.

Hinesh Mehta, Assistant Director of Climate Change, 5 July 2023

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – Petition Details

APPENDIX A - PETITION DETAILS

Caxton Village (W12) Parking Problems

We the undersigned petition the council to Request the following changes to the controlled parking Zone G for the Caxton Village Area containing the six streets of Bulwer Street, Aldine Street, Caxton Road, Tadmor Street, Sterne Street and Shepherd's Bush Place: (a) increase the parking restrictions to 24 hours a day, seven days a week permit holders only; (b) no blue badge parking except for resident and resident visitor parking permit holders (as is the case in nearby MacFarlane Road); (c) increase resource and time period for enforcement patrols to support these greater restrictions.

The Caxton Village Area (W12), containing the six streets of Bulwer Street, Aldine Street, Caxton Road, Tadmor Street, Sterne Street and Shepherd's Bush Place, falls within parking zone G in the Shepherd's Bush Green ward. Parking restrictions in this area currently only apply from Monday to Sunday between the hours of 6.30pm and 8.00pm. The parking bays are shared between resident and visitor use via the RingGo parking app.

The Caxton Village area is situated between Shepherd's Bush Green to the south and Westfield London Shopping Centre to the north.

As a result of this proximity to Shepherd's Bush Green, Caxton Village is frequented, in high volume, by motor vehicles parking on our streets prior to visiting the shops and fast food outlets on Uxbridge Road, or as a result of the long programme of very large events that take place on Shepherd's Bush Green (Circus Extreme, Fun Fairs etc). This often results in there being no available parking spaces for permit holders. Further, this use of parking frequently results in vehicle owners idling their engines whilst eating fast food in their car and disposing of their fast food litter directly onto the streets and pavements, alongside escalating aggression as motorists compete over available parking bays by using their horns and verbal abuse. Another consequence of our proximity to Shepherd's Bush Green and Westfield London is the volume of taxi drivers and food delivery mopeds/vehicles parking on our streets as they wait for their next collection.

Late at night, the level of noise as a result of all of the above is sufficient to disturb the peace of local residents and many families residing in the streets of Caxton Village often highlight this noise wakes them and their young children.

As a result of Caxton Village's proximity to Westfield London Shopping Centre (and the large number of restaurant and bar venues on the Westfield Southern Terrace), local residents are frequently unable to find a parking space on their or a surrounding street. This is particularly problematic at weekends when our six streets are filled

with a constant influx of traffic as people drive around our streets until they find an available bay to park in. Many residents report having to unload their cars and children more than 100 metres away from surrounding streets, if they are able to park at all.

We are requesting no blue badge parking except for resident and resident visitor parking permit holders (as is the case in nearby MacFarlane Road) as a result of the unsustainable level of blue badge parking in Caxton Village. Many local residents have taken the initiative to count the level of blue badges in use at any one point in time and it is often the case that the vast majority of bays are being used by blue badge holders. There is knowledge within the council that the streets of Caxton Village are known to be areas of high blue badge fraud. The council even employs enforcement officers in plain clothes in the area to attempt to address this issue, yet the frequency and level of enforcement is insufficient relative to the volume of blue badge use.

It is the perception of residents, through witnessing the behaviour of many blue badge users, that this is the result of fraudulent use by visitors at Westfield London Shopping Centre. The vast majority of blue badge holders park and then walk up Bulwer Street to the junction of Wood Lane where they then proceed to Westfield London Shopping Centre. For genuine blue badge users, there appears to be no good reason to park in Caxton Village and walk, given Westfield London offers free parking for blue badge holders four hours per day, seven days per week in every car park at the centre with onward lift access to the centre.

It has been highlighted by an employee of Westfield London that free parking is only granted upon validation of the blue badge from within Westfield London. Should the person presenting the blue badge not represent the photo on the blue badge, parking will not be validated. It is clear therefore that fraudulent blue badge users gain an advantage from parking in Caxton Village instead of Westfield London as they can take advantage of free, time unlimited parking just a few minutes' walk away from the shopping centre.

These reasons make parking in the roads of Caxton Village particularly attractive to shoppers and diners at both Westfield and Shepherd's Bush Green, creating a disproportionately high level of use from vehicles not linked to residents in any way.

Our requested increase in restrictions and enforcement patrols will allow for residents and their visitors to make use of the permits they pay for each year, and be able to park at a safe and reasonable distance from their home, which today is so often not the case. We further believe the proposed increase in restrictions will reduce traffic on our residential streets, which will also reduce pollution from motor vehicles, noise and littering. We believe these changes would materially improve the living conditions and wellbeing for the residents of Caxton Village.

This ePetition ran from 16/05/2023 to 20/06/2023 and has now finished.

272 people signed this ePetition.