Dear Resident/Business

The purpose of this newsletter is to consult you on proposals to introduce a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) in your road/area. This proposal is in response to concerns and a petition received from local residents in your area who are experiencing parking difficulties in their road/s. Generally residents feel that the problem is being caused by:

- Commuters who park and complete their journey by public transport from either Raynes Park or Wimbledon.
- Existence of nearby CPZs displacing parking into the surrounding area.
- Residents and school staff within the neighbouring CPZs avoiding parking charges.

What is a Controlled Parking Zone or CPZ?

A controlled parking zone is an area where parking bays and yellow line restrictions are marked on the carriageway to indicate to motorist where it is safe/unsafe to park. In a CPZ the operational times for the single yellow lines are indicated on the zone entry signs. There maybe single yellow lines that operate at different times and these would be signed separately. Double yellow line restrictions at key locations indicate no parking at any time do not require a sign. However, in the absence of loading restrictions you may stop on a yellow line to load or unload goods for a limited period of time. All parking places are individually signed to ensure that they are fully enforceable.

To help reduce the number of new posts required, every effort is made to ensure that signs are placed on existing street furniture, such as lamp columns.

In a CPZ the residents, local businesses and their visitors are given priority to use appropriate parking places by displaying a valid permit in respect of that zone. A permit does not give the holder the right to park outside a particular premise, and does not guarantee a parking space.

How will it work?

A CPZ intends to control parking by non-permit holders, and may help to improve the environment by reducing the number of parked vehicles.

They comprise of various types of parking bays such as permit holder bays (for use by resident or business permit holders and those with visitor permit); shared use bays (for permit holders and pay and display) and pay and display only bays. Within any proposed controlled parking zone the Council aims to reach a compromise between the needs of the residents, businesses and visitors.

In a CPZ all road space is managed by the introduction of restrictions. Parking can only be permitted where safety, access and sightlines are not compromised. It is, therefore, normal practice to introduce double yellow lines at key locations such as at junctions, bends, turning heads and at specific locations along lengths of roads where parking would impede the passing of vehicles. It would also be necessary to lay yellow lines (effective during the hours of operation or at any time) across where the kerb is lowered. i.e. crossovers.

Within any proposed CPZ the Council will aim to reach a sensible balance between the residents/businesses needs and the safety of all road users. In the event that the majority of those consulted reject the CPZ in their road, and the Council agrees not to proceed, Officers' will recommend that the proposed double yellow lines identified at key locations are introduced for safety and access reasons.
Council appointed parking attendants will enforce the controls by issuing fines to vehicles parked in contravention. These fines are called Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs).

Outside the controlled times the restrictions are not enforced. However, attendants will issue PCNs for any other parking contravention such as parking on double yellow lines, footways and parking across individual crossovers without the property owner’s consent. Please see plan overleaf for further details of proposals.

Proposal

The Council is considering three options relating to the operational times of the proposed parking measures in your area. These include:

- Mondays to Fridays, between the hours of 8.30am and 6.30pm. This will provide maximum protection to the residents by removing commuter parking for a longer period of time. It will, however, be less flexible for residents and their visitors who will need to obtain a visitors’ permit from the residents they are visiting in order to park in the permit holder bays.

- Mondays to Fridays, between 11am and 3pm. This will provide less restriction for residents and their visitors, whilst still preventing most commuters from parking in the area. However, residents returning from work later in the afternoon, outside the controlled times, may have difficulties finding available parking due to shoppers, evening shift workers and those from neighbouring zone.

- One-hour controls - Mondays to Fridays, between 11am and 12 noon. This is the minimum restriction that can be applied. The advantage would be that it would mean less number of visitors’ permits and more flexibility for all. However, the price of a permit is the same and a 1-hour zone will do nothing to prevent others to park in the area outside the controlled time to access the local shops and use the nearby train station, reducing available parking for residents. Such zones have enforcement implications and make the enforcement of the zone less effective.

- You also have the option of opting for Saturdays to be included within the hours of operation.

Let us know your views

The decision on whether or not to proceed with the next step, which would involve a formal consultation on the proposals, will be subject to the responses received during this consultation.

Please complete and return the enclosed prepaid questionnaire (no stamp required), with any further comments/suggestions you may have by 2 May 2008.

We regret that due to the number of responses received during a public consultation it will not be possible to individually reply to each respondent. We welcome your comments on this proposal, which will be noted and included within the proposed measures where appropriate. It should be noted that subject to responses received recommendation may be made to include those roads or parts of those roads who support the proposed measures within a CPZ. YOU ARE ALSO INVITED TO SPEAK TO OFFICERS OUR DROP-IN SESSIONS. SEE OVERLEAF FOR DETAILS.

What happens next

It is envisaged that the result of the consultation along with officers’ recommendations will be reported to the Street Management Advisory Committee and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Traffic Management on 17 June 2008. Once a decision is made you will be informed accordingly.
Consultation area of proposed controlled parking zone ‘SD’

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EXHIBITION INVITE
You may wish to attend one of our public exhibitions to be held at:
Sacred Heart Church Hall
Edge Hill, London SW19
at the following times:
Tue 22 April 2008 from 11.00 am to 7.00 pm
Thu 24 April 2008 from 11.00 am to 7.00 pm
Sat 26 April 2008 from 12.00 pm to 5.00 pm

If you would like more information in your own language, please contact us at the address shown in the bottom box.
Nexe dhiiriintii mid muhiim inaagta ne giijan tuuj, ju leetemi ne naa koobanta ugu adeed ee dhaame inaagta.

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Contact us
If you require further information please contact James Geeson on 020 8545 3056 or email james.geeson@merton.gov.uk.

Alternatively you can visit our website using the following link www.merton.gov.uk/southdown. You may also view the plans in Merton Link at Merton Civic Centre, Morden during our workings hours, Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm and at Wimbledon Library, 35 Wimbledon Hill Road, Wimbledon SW19 7NB. Additionally there will be an exhibition where you can speak to officers regarding these proposals. Please see below for venue.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HOW CPZs WORK IN MERTON, PLEASE SEE THE ‘FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS’ ENCLOSED