Dear Resident / Business

The purpose of this leaflet is to seek your views on proposals to introduce a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) in Ascot Road, Boscombe Road, Bruce Road, Cromer Road, Grenfell Road, Inglemere Road, Sirdar Road, and parts of Links Road, Goring Park Avenue and Seely Road. This proposal is in response to representations and a petition received from local residents who are experiencing parking difficulties in their road(s). This issue was also discussed at a residents' meeting in February 2009 and it was agreed that the Council would carry out informal consultation to seek your views on proposal to control parking in the area (see plan attached). Generally, residents feel that the problem is being caused by:

- Commuters who park and complete their journey by public transport from either Tooting Station or working in nearby businesses.
- Existence of nearby Wandsworth CPZs displacing parking into the surrounding area.
- Residents and staff of nearby businesses within the neighbouring CPZs avoiding parking charges.

WHAT IS A CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE OR CPZ?

A Controlled Parking Zone is an area where parking controls are introduced to protect the parking needs of residents and their visitors, as well as those of local businesses. Parking bays are marked on the carriageway to indicate to motorists where they can park. Yellow line restrictions are also introduced to improve safety by removing dangerous or obstructive parking. In a CPZ the operational times for the single yellow lines are indicated on signs as you enter the zone. In some cases there may be single yellow lines that operate at different times and these must be signed separately. Double yellow line restrictions do not require signs. 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 within a CPZ are individually signed to ensure that motorists are aware of the operational times and conditions. This ensures that the bays are fully enforceable. To help reduce the number of new posts required for these signs, every effort is made to ensure that signs are placed on existing street furniture, such as lamp columns or combined with other street signs.

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

Please see the frequently asked questions (FAQ's) sheet enclosed.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

All road space in a CPZ is managed by the introduction of parking controls. Parking is only 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 is also necessary to
provide yellow lines (effective during the CPZ hours of operation or at any time) where the kerb is lowered, i.e. crossovers for driveways.

The key objective of managing parking is to reduce and control non-essential parking and assist the residents, short-term visitors and the local businesses. Within any CPZ, only those within the zone are entitled to permits. This means that long-term parkers will not be able to park within the permit bays during the operational times. An incremental pricing structure for 2nd and subsequent permits also assists in minimising the number of permits issued to individual residents and help discourage unnecessary multiple car ownerships.

CPZs comprise of various types of parking bays such as permit holder bays (for use by resident or business permit holders and those with visitor permits); shared use bays (for permit holders and pay and display) and pay and display only bays (permits are not valid). Council appointed Civil Enforcement Officers will enforce the controls by issuing fines/Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to vehicles parked in contravention of the restrictions. Outside the controlled times the restrictions are not enforced. However, Civil Enforcement Officers 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.

The Council aims to reach a balance between the needs of the residents, businesses and the safety of all road users. In the event that the majority of those consulted do not support a CPZ in their road or area, and the Council agrees, officers may recommend that only the proposed double yellow lines identified at key locations are introduced to improve safety and maintain access.

PROPOSALS

The Council is considering options relating to the operational hours and days of the proposed parking measures in your area.

The choice of operational hours are explained below:

**All Day Controls (8.30am - 6.30pm)** - This will provide maximum protection to the residents by removing short and long-term parking. It will, however, be less flexible for residents and their visitors who will need to obtain a visitor’s permit from the resident they are visiting in order to park in the permit holder bays.

**Part Time Controls (10am - 4pm)** - These operating times offer less restrictions on residents and their visitors than ‘all day’ controls. It is still effective in preventing long-term parkers. However, it may encourage short-term parking by non residents or businesses, such as shoppers outside the operating times. Residents returning from work later in the afternoon may find less available parking in their street due to this. The standard annual parking permit charges will still apply regardless of the hours the zone operates.

**One-hour control (11am - 12 noon)** - This minimum restriction offers more flexibility to residents and their visitors than the part time day controls, reducing the amount of visitors’ permits they would normally obtain, and is still effective in restricting long-term parking. However, it may encourage other short term parking outside the restricted time, by non-residents such as shoppers. Non residents may also work their way around the one-hour by moving their vehicles and then returning to park for the rest of the day. The standard annual parking permit charges will still apply regardless of the hours the zone operates.

The operational days include:
Monday to Friday - This will offer more flexibility to residents and visitors at weekends. However it may encourage non residents, especially shoppers, to park on Saturdays, therefore reducing available parking for your visitors. The standard annual parking permit charges will still apply regardless of the days the zone operates.

Monday to Saturday - This will protect parking by weekend shoppers. However it will be more restrictive on your visitors who will need a visitors permit from you in order to park during the controlled times.

The following parking measures are also proposed:

Double yellow lines at junctions, bends, ends of culs-de-sac and to create passing gaps. (This will improve safety and access at all times by reducing obstructive parking that is currently taking place)

Shared Use Pay and Display bays in Seely Road and Links Road near its junctions with Mitcham Road; Grenfell Road and Gorringe Park Avenue near its junctions with London Road and Ascot Road outside the Police Station, with a maximum stay of 5 hours. (This will increase parking provision in the area for use by pay and display customers whilst still maintaining parking facilities for permit holders)

Loading bay for goods vehicles ONLY in Links Road near its junction with Mitcham Road and Grenfell Road and Inglemere Road near its junction with London Road, for a maximum of 40 minutes. (This will ensure suitable loading facilities for businesses at all times)

LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS

The decision on whether or not to proceed with the next step, which would involve statutory consultations 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 comments or suggestions you may have by 30 October 2009. 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. You are also invited to speak to officers at the public meeting on 21 October 2009 as detailed overleaf. See below for details. It should be noted that subject to the responses received, a recommendation may be made to only include those roads where there is a substantial majority in support of the proposals.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

It is envisaged that the results of the consultation along with officers’ recommendations will be reported to the Street Management Advisory Committee before a decision is made by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Traffic Management. Once a decision is made you will be informed accordingly.

CONTACT US

If you require further information please contact Paul Atie on 020 8545 3214 or email paul.atie@merton.gov.uk. Alternatively you can visit our website using the following link www.merton.gov.uk/cpzgc. You may also view the plans in Merton Link at Merton Civic Centre, Morden during our working hours, Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm.
MEETING INVITE

Your ward Councillors have given a commitment to hold a meeting to discuss the CPZ proposals for your area. Therefore you are invited to attend a meeting at 7.00pm to be held at Links Primary School as detailed below. Officers will also be in attendance to explain the proposals and respond to any concerns that you may have. Large scale plans of the proposals will also be available to assist with the discussion.

INVITATION TO RESIDENTS MEETING

You are invited to attend a meeting at
Links Primary School
Frinton Road SW17 9EH
on Wednesday 21 October 2009
at 7.00pm