

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION DEPARTMENT

Chris Lee - Director



**Future Merton
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**My Ref : CPZ/CW4
Please Ask For: Caroline Stanyon
Your Ref:**

Date: 23 March 2017

Dear Resident

**CHRISTCHURCH CLOSE AND COLWOOD GARDENS, COLLIERS WOOD
INFORMAL CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE (CPZ) CONSULTATION (CW4)**

The safety of our residents and visitors to the borough is of high priority for us. The quality of the street scene is of equal importance. As part of this commitment, the Council will consider the introduction of a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) to reach a balance between the needs of residents and businesses and the safety of all road users.

Petitions in favour of the introduction of a CPZ have been received from residents of both Christchurch Close and Colwood Gardens who are experiencing parking difficulties in their road(s). Generally, residents feel the problem is being caused by:

- Commuters who park and complete their journey by public transport;
- Staff of nearby businesses; and
- Residents of neighbouring CPZs avoiding parking charges.

In addition, residents of Christchurch Close have reported obstruction and access issues due to inconsiderately parked vehicles. Following, repeated complaints the Council has recently consulted on the introduction of 'at any time' double yellow lines waiting restrictions. All representations have been considered and a Cabinet Member decision has now been made to introduce these restrictions by the end of April/beginning of May 2017.

As a result of the petitions and, following an informal meeting earlier this year with residents of Christchurch Close, local Police representative and Siobhain McDonagh MP, we are writing to seek your views on the introduction of parking controls in your road.

Such controls could either be introduced as an extension to the existing CW CPZ (operational Monday to Friday 8.30am – 6.30pm) or as a new 'stand alone' CPZ, the operational day/hours to be decided by you the residents as part of this consultation.

One key advantage of becoming part of the existing CW CPZ is that your permit would give you eligibility to park in any road within the CW CPZ should you not be able to find a parking space in your road. In addition, Monday to Friday daytime controls offer more flexibility for you as residents and your visitors at weekends.

Unfortunately being part of a larger scheme can lead to internal commuting by other permit holders as your roads(s) are closer to attractions such as the shops and public transport facilities. This is an issue that has already been voiced by residents as a particular concern.

In light of the above and reports of issues with evening and weekend parking pressure the Council is providing you with a number of options which include a choice of preferred hours and days of operation, which could if required, consist of evening and/or 7 day a week operation. However, the main disadvantage of becoming a new CPZ is that your permit would only entitle you to park in the roads within your zone and not in the CW Zone.

Please be aware that regardless of whether residents opt to be part of the existing CW CPZ or a new 'stand alone' CPZ, there is a possibility that residents and business of the redeveloped Brown and Root Tower, although not eligible for permits could park in your road(s) outside of the CPZ hours.

PROPOSAL

A plan of the proposed parking bay layout is attached. Due to the existing Red Route 'free' limited stay parking bays in both Christchurch Close and Colwood Gardens at their junctions with Christchurch Road, all parking bays have been provided as resident permit holder bays for use by resident permit holders and visitor permits only.

In addition, to maximize parking for residents, whilst also ensuring safety and access for all road users, it is proposed to remove a number of existing concrete bollards and allow parking partial footway parking on both sides of Christchurch Close.

Permit Costs

The standard annual parking permit charges apply regardless of the hours and days the zone operates. The Council has recently agreed the introduction of a new diesel levy for resident, business and trade parking permits and reduced permit charge for electric vehicles. This levy is in addition to the cost of the permit.

Further information on how CPZs work and details of permit costs can be found on the Council website at the following links <http://www.merton.gov.uk/transport-streets/parking.htm> and <http://www.merton.gov.uk/transport-streets/parking/cpz/cpzcw>.

LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS

The decision on whether or not to proceed with the next step, which would involve a statutory consultation on the proposals, will be subject to the responses received during this consultation. This informal consultation will 'go live' on **Monday 27 March 2017**.

We would ask that you submit your questionnaire online using the following link <http://www.merton.gov.uk/transport-streets/parking/cpz/cpzcw>.

The online system has been created to keep costs down and allow the Council to process your views more efficiently. Anyone who does not have access to a computer can contact the Council and a hard copy of the questionnaire will be provided.

Please let us have any comments or suggestions you may have by **Monday 24 April 2017**.

We regret that due to the number of responses received during an informal consultation it will not be possible to individually reply to each respondent.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The results of the consultation along with officers' recommendations will be presented in a report to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration. Once a decision is made you will be informed accordingly.

You can visit our website using the following link www.merton.gov.uk/cpzcw. 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 or at Colliers Wood Library.

Yours sincerely,

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