

WOKINGHAM ROAD SHARED-USE BAY PROPOSALS - OBJECTIONS TO TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

APPENDIX 1 - Summary of letters of support and objections received to Traffic Regulation Order

Street/Summary	Objections/support/comments received.
	Summary of responses: Objections - 49, Support - 2, Comment - 0, Mixed Response - 0 .
1) Resident, Support	I believe this should solve the issues raised by the Earley Christian fellowship, while still meeting the needs of people who actually live in the area.
2) Resident, Support	Wokingham Road is used as an free overflow car park for surrounding streets, a park and ride for people who work and shop in Reading town centre, and a taxi rank for private minicab drivers. I would like to these restrictions implemented.
3) Earley Christian Fellowship, 16X Objections, submitted separately	<p>I am concerned about the impact on Earley Christian Fellowship and object to the proposed Wokingham Road Pay & Display for the following reasons:</p> <p>1 The timing of the proposal is premature I understand that the Council is concerned that Wokingham Road may become a parking-lot for those wishing to avoid buying a permit, when Area 2 of the East Reading Residents' Parking Scheme (the St Peter's Road area) goes live. This is a genuine concern, as it could impinge upon availability of parking spaces for those attending services and other activities at ECF. This, however, has NOT been the case with the implementation of the Residents' Permit scheme in Area 1 (roads adjacent to Wokingham Road) which has been in operation since 16 September 2019, and which has had very little impact on the parking situation on Wokingham Road. Therefore, Area 2 should be allowed to go live and the impact on Wokingham Road assessed prior to any decision being made.</p> <p>2 There is no need for evening metering There is very little parking on Wokingham Road overnight (as evidenced by ECF in the survey submitted during the December 2018 consultation) and if this was to increase, it really wouldn't matter: residents along Wokingham Road all have driveways/garages and do not rely on on-street parking. Metered timings similar to Erleigh Road (near the Royal Berks) of 8am-5.30pm Mon-Fri would be far more appropriate and would have the added benefit of allowing ECF evening activities to continue unhindered.</p> <p>3 The restrictions should not apply at the weekend The restrictions are proposed every day of the week, so ECF Sunday services (both morning and evening) would be adversely and unnecessarily impacted, along with all Saturday events, such as weddings, conferences, and the annual Family Fun day.</p> <p>4 A longer free period would be more beneficial There are very few meetings/church activities at ECF that are of less than 2 hours duration. The Council is already aware of this from the December 2018 objections and ongoing discussions and it is disappointing that</p>

	<p>more consideration of the activities of the church and its many community activities has not been taken into account.</p> <p>5 'Pay to Pray'</p> <p>It has been consistently put to the Council that 4 hours free, and unrestricted parking in the evenings and at the weekend would enable most of the activities at ECF to continue unimpeded, without any consequent accusation on the Council of causing the church to 'Pay to Pray'.</p>
4) Earley Christian Fellowship, 3X Objections, submitted separately	<p>I understand that the Council is concerned that Wokingham Road may become a parking-lot.</p> <p>My points to object it are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no need for evening metering There is very little parking on Wokingham Road overnight. 2. The restrictions should not apply at the weekend The restrictions are proposed every day of the week, so ECF Sunday services (both morning and evening) would be adversely and unnecessarily impacted, along with all Saturday events, such as weddings, conferences, and the annual Family Fun day. 3. A longer free period would be more beneficial There are very few meetings/church activities at ECF that are of less than 2 hours duration. It is disappointing that more consideration of the activities of the church and its many community activities has not been taken into account. <p>Thank you.</p>
5) Resident, Objection	<p>There is absolutely no need for the Wokingham road to become parking metered. There are so few roads remaining without restrictions, this feels unnecessary.</p>
6) Resident, Objection	<p>This is a very parking space for visitors to local streets or for short visits to town for park and ride. It is a useful For excess capacity for shared occupancy. Without this space, we may move a parking problem to elsewhere in the borough or to Wokingham Borough Council</p>
7) Resident, Objection	<p>Church and bus top nearby means people will 'chance' it and park illegally in neighbouring streets. Many people, particularly students, have regular overnight guests (especially at the beginning and end of the academic year to help with moving). It's also used for local hire cars for all those who do not own their own car.</p>
8) Resident, Objection	<p>As a busy working family [REDACTED], the free parking on Wokingham Road is essential for short visits after school etc. Also I fear we may push regular users to roads with no parking restrictions causing problems on smaller roads.</p>
9) Resident, Objection	<p>Existing unrestricted is not a problem so don't see any reason to introduce charges.</p>
10) Resident,	<p>The neighbouring streets already have parking restrictions. Keeping Wokingham road as a free parking road</p>

Objection	will allow flexibility for visitors and people who hire cars.
11) Resident, Objection	No comments provided to online survey.
12) Resident, Objection	No comments provided to online survey.
13) Resident, Objection	With all the other restrictions in side roads, we need to have some free bays. I fear putting more restrictions may impact local businesses and especially the charities as people may not be inclined to support them if they have to pay to visit. The free bays also mean people can park for free to visit the doctors...
14) Resident, Objection	It will take away the only area of free parking local to us . Sometimes our residential street (that is permit holders and 2 hrs free parking)can be full up but one can find a spot on the main road , so to take this away will be inconvenient [REDACTED]. If a visitor or delivery is unaware of this they can park on the main Wokingham Rd without penalty. The church congregation opposite will also suffer if charges are put in place and it could mean they will fill up our road for the 2 hours free parking and so the circle is closed.
15) Resident, Objection	Not sure of the need to put parking measures in this area. The red zone amd new bays has made it clear where to park and demand on spaces isn't excessive. Often used by visitors in surrounding roads with permits. Is this just for RBC revenue generation?
16) Resident, Objection	No comments provided to online survey.
17) Business, Objection	This will adversely effect the business [REDACTED] as some[REDACTED] park along the Wokingham Road near the setting to travel by public transport to work in Reading Town Centre while [REDACTED].
18) Resident, Objection	There is no requirement for parking restrictions on W'ham Road between Green Road and Three Tuns. Parking on the road does not cause a safety issue. This area is part of a healthy community area, and paid parking would limit this. There are a number of small businesses in the area, whose staff would be severely financially affected if paid parking were introduced. There is also a vibrant church, whose congregation would be adversely affected. This area is welcoming to residents and visitors alike, and paid parking would dampen this. I believe Reading BCC wants all to feel welcome and wanted within its environs. The increase of parking restrictions is not in keeping with this ethos. Most disappointed this measure is even being considered.
19) Resident, Objection	Allowing people to park on Wokingham Road freely reduces the number of cars trying to get into the town centre. Many people park and use the buses to get in. There is already reduced parking on roads in the university area so those needing just 2 hours free can use those already. Restricting free parking on the Wokingham Road is also a problem for people with multiple visitors or relatives for a few days at a time. For example we had several guests across multiple cars at Christmas. This will be an issue for us. [REDACTED]. We parked on the Wokingham Road which was a very helpful.

	There are some students who commute to Reading University and are not able to park on Campus so this supports their learning.
20) Resident, Objection	Once a week i visit a friend who lives in [REDACTED]. 2 Hour free parking is not enough time for a proper chat on an evening. I can understand why this scheme is necessary during the day, but cannot understand why it is needed over night. It should be in force from 8am to 6 pm and all other times are free. That would stop the misuse of the currently free parking by people who work in Reading and use the No17 bus instead of the park and ride service. It would also allow for visitors to houses that don't have off road parking to stay a decent length of time during an evening.
21) Early Christian Fellowship, Objection	[REDACTED] attend Early Christian fellowship, a local church on Wokingham Road not only do we hold a Sunday service, we also have meetings on Saturdays and throughout the week some last longer than the 2 free hours, it would also mean having to rush out and put money in a meter this change? charge could deter a lot of the elderly/ less advantaged people of our community not being able to attend.
22) Resident, Objection	<p>The present East Reading scheme is working well without the need of pay and display on Wokingham Road. Residents of surrounding / adjacent streets who occasionally hire cars as a 'green option' are unable to purchase a parking permit for the vehicle as short term permits are not available. They are however able to park on Wokingham Road. A new scheme would bring this option to an end and residents who hire would be inclined to buy a car - a backward step for our environment.</p> <p>Please do not make the day to day lives of the people who reside in this area more difficult.</p>
23) Resident, Objection	There are always plenty of spaces. It's unnecessary.
24) Business, Objection	<p>[REDACTED].</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. [REDACTED] 2. [REDACTED] 3. [REDACTED] 4. In respect of the business parking permit this is only allowed for employees who are using their car throughout the day - no consideration has been given to the above situations. 5. I appreciate that employees would be able to park and pay the daily parking charge but the impact on my business would be considerable if, as is likely, my current employees would seek employment elsewhere to fit in with their other commitments and it may be difficult to employ other staff because of the restrictions.

	<p>6. All residential properties along the Wokingham Road near my [REDACTED] have their own driveways and therefore I cannot see that leaving the current parking bays unrestricted would have any impact on them. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the businesses operating in the area.</p> <p>6. In view of the current situation, where we are being advised to avoid public transport, in order to restrict the spread of Covid-19, I would sincerely hope that any decision is, at the very least, delayed until the pandemic is over as I am extremely concerned about the health and well being of my staff, particularly those with high risk relatives. My business, at present, has not been affected as my staff are able to come to work by car - this would not be case if they were travelling by public transport.</p>
25) Resident, Objection	<p>As a cyclist who uses this road each day to commute to work, I find it strange that you want to create even more parking places on this busy main road. I would have thought it sensible to remove all parking along this road and turn it into a dedicated cycle lane would be the most sensible. Nobody really needs a car who lives this close to Reading and people should be encouraged to use our excellent bus services or walk. Its crazy to encourage even more cars to be parked there blocking access for busses and cyclists.</p> <p>Please remember we are also in a climate emergency.</p> <p>I also note that the Wokingham end of the Wokingham road does not have parking along it and has a much better real bike path. I believe this is a model Reading should also follow.</p>
26) Resident, Objection	<p>I and others conducted traffic surveys at the end of 2018 along Wokingham Road between Green Road and the Three Tuns and found almost no parking in evening and at least 50% of the spaces unused during the daytime. I raise objections to the proposed measures being brought in by RBC on 3 grounds:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No case for night-time restrictions (5.30 pm until 7 am) <p>We understand that RBC expects residents in St Peter's Road and the neighbouring roads to park their cars in Wokingham Road instead of their own roads simply to evade residents' permit charges. If this is the case then clearly RBC's proposed charges on those residents are unreasonable. Such people may not wish to park far from their homes anyway. There is no justification for night metering on Wokingham Road until the St Peter's Road schemes are up and running, and a need has been demonstrated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Unclear justification for daytime charging <p>If the aim is to deter no. 17 bus commuters or student parking, a 5-hour maximum free time would achieve this (if there is evidence you need to restrict such persons).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Loss of mental well-being - 2 hours of free parking not enough especially on Sundays <p>We are members of ECF church that has met at 153 Wokingham Road for the past 35 years. Hitherto parking on Wokingham Road on Sundays or at other times has never been a problem to us or anyone else, though as family we cycle or car-share when possible.</p> <p>On Sunday over 200 worship for about 110 minutes followed by 30-90 minutes of chat, encouraging each</p>

	<p>other, sometimes with a meal, i.e. time for "community" and maintaining mental well-being. The proposed meter scheme would cause anxiety - with people 'watching the clock' for fear of getting a parking ticket. Such stress would be particularly cruel on the older (but still able-bodied) among us, whose memory is not so sharp.</p> <p>Sometimes on other days there may be a men's help group, a parent & toddlers meeting, youth clubs etc., where attendees or leaders sometimes need to stay longer than 2 hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please, RBC, don't cause us unnecessary stress, please consider people's mental health. <p>Therefore we believe there are several reasonable grounds for RBC to suspend the Wokingham Road scheme entirely for the present, or at least to exempt Sundays and evenings and extend free parking in other days to 4 hours.</p> <p>Thanks for your attention</p>
27) Resident, Objection	<p>I work at[REDACTED] Wokingham Road and drive to work. To go by public transport would mean getting two buses - firstly into town and then back out again. Please can you advise what arrangements are being made for people who work (rather than are resident) on the Wokingham Road. Is this to be the same as previously proposed.</p>
28) Earley Christian Fellowship, Objection	<p>To whom it may concern</p> <p>I am writing concerning the new parking restrictions on the Wokingham Road as I feel this will restrict my ability to attend church at Earley Christian Fellowship. I understand the need for some restrictions but there isn't a need in the evenings and at weekends. Also 2 hours is not long enough for the average meeting. I feel that I am being discriminated against and I thought that it wasn't the council's policy that I had to pay to pray.</p> <p>yours sincerely</p>
29) Earley Christian Fellowship, Objection	<p>I am a member of Earley Christian Fellowship which meets at 153 Wokingham Road, Reading. I object to the Councils proposal to implement a parking scheme of Permit parking/ restricted parking where restrictions apply Mon-Sun 24 hours a day with 2 hours of free parking available.</p> <p>This would impact church activities which are longer than 2 hours, such as Parent and Toddlers on Tues am where parents need to find parking spaces and safely bring in their babies and young children.</p> <p>Other activities that could be affected include Kids Club and Youth Club on Fri pm and the church prayer meeting on Tuesday evening.</p> <p>Sunday meetings would also be affected as they are longer than 2 hours and the congregation is made up people who are local but quite a number drive from various parts of Reading such as Whitley, Theale and Woodley, and need somewhere to park.</p> <p>Also at weekends there can be larger events such as Conferences, weddings, and our annual community Family Fun day.</p> <p>I suggest a longer Free Parking period would be more appropriate- e.g. 4 hours, also for parking restrictions not to apply at the weekend.</p> <p>Most of the residents on Wokingham Road have driveways and do not rely on roadside parking so they would be unaffected by parking restrictions.</p>

	<p>Also the St Peters Road (Area 2) Permit parking scheme is not underway yet. It is possible that when this scheme goes live many motorists will seek to park on Wokingham Road.</p> <p>Why not wait until Area 2 goes live before assessing the new situation and taking suitable measures accordingly?</p> <p>I hope you will take these objections and suggestions into consideration in your planning</p>
30) Earley Christian Fellowship, Objection	<p>As a regular attender of Earley Christian Fellowship 153 Wokingham Road I wish to raise an objection to the proposed 'Pay and Display' parking changes.</p> <p>I understand the plans are to only allow up to 2 hours of free parking with payment thereafter, for 7 days a week.</p> <p>I would argue this is unnecessary and discriminatory against those of us who attend meeting at Earley Christian Fellowship where the meetings are usually in excess of 2 hours.</p> <p>Why do the restrictions have to apply in the evenings and weekends when there is no objective or justifiable need for this? There is very little parking on Wokingham Road overnight at present and in any case residents along the road all have driveways/garages and do not rely on on-street parking so what is the benefit?</p> <p>If metering is to be introduced then surely metered timings similar to Erleigh Road (near the Royal Berks) of 8am-5.30pm Mon-Fri would be far more appropriate .</p> <p>This would of course have the added benefit of allowing Earley Christian Fellowship evening activities to continue unhindered.</p>
31) Earley Christian Fellowship, Objection	<p>I am concerned that introducing these planned parking restrictions to Wokingham will greatly affect access to the Church services and activities which take place at 153 Wokingham Road, many of which last longer than 2 hours, and which I attend.</p> <p>At present is not always possible to park within the grounds of 153 Wokingham Road as the parking spaces are often full, which is not surprising as it is a house of multiple occupancy and parking near the church has not been problematic until now.</p> <p>I firmly believe that any further parking restrictions will inevitably lead to increased traffic congestion not less, as cars will be forced to drive around the area looking for appropriate parking or have to move spaces more frequently, as no one wants to 'Pay to Pray'.</p> <p>Has a proper assessment been done? As I understand it, the implementation of the Residents Permit scheme in Area 1, in the roads adjacent to Wokingham Road has had very little impact on the parking in Wokingham Road, so is it really necessary to introduce this especially without doing a proper assessment first?</p> <p>I therefore respectfully request that you rethink the introduction of parking restrictions and parking permits to Wokingham Road</p>

	Thank you for your consideration.
32) Resident, Objection	<p>I have many concerns over the latest proposals put forward for parking restrictions along the Wokingham Road. After new parking restrictions were put along some of the side roads (Area 1 of the East Reading Residents' Parking Scheme) there was a concern that the Wokingham Road would become a 'car park' to accommodate the cars for those wishing to avoid buying a permit, however this has not been the case as I feel the number of cars now parking on the road has not increased substantially as had been predicted. Therefore I feel the reasoning to place parking restrictions along the Wokingham Road to prevent it from becoming a 'car park' due to new parking restrictions along side roads is unfounded.</p> <p>This scheme will penalise many families who use some of the establishments up and down the road. The car parks of the local pub, church, nursery and dentist along Wokingham Road are not big enough for all the users who visit these places. I have often needed to park on the road when visiting many of these places and paying for parking at these places would be penalising me for being active member of society and supporting local establishments. These places have relied on free parking on Wokingham Road and adding parking restrictions on the road would be an unnecessary burden on both these establishments and their users.</p> <p>I am not in favour of the proposed parking restrictions along Wokingham Road and I would prefer the current provision to remain the same - free parking along Wokingham Road at all times of the day.</p>
33) Earley Christian Fellowship, Objection	<p>I object to introducing parking fees to park in Wokingham road for the following reasons:</p> <p>1 The timing of the proposal is premature I understand that the Council is concerned that Wokingham Road may become a parking-lot for those wishing to avoid buying a permit, when Area 2 of the East Reading Residents' Parking Scheme (the St Peter's Road area) goes live. This is a genuine concern, as it could impinge upon availability of parking spaces for those attending services and other activities at ECF. This, however, has NOT been the case with the implementation of the Residents' Permit scheme in Area 1 (roads adjacent to Wokingham Road) which has been in operation since 16 September 2019, and which has had very little impact on the parking situation on Wokingham Road. Therefore, Area 2 should be allowed to go live and the impact on Wokingham Road assessed prior to any decision being made.</p> <p>2 There is no need for evening metering There is very little parking on Wokingham Road overnight (as evidenced by ECF in the survey submitted during the December 2018 consultation) and if this was to increase, it really wouldn't matter: residents along Wokingham Road all have driveways/garages and do not rely on on-street parking. Metered timings similar to Erleigh Road (near the Royal Berks) of 8am-5.30pm Mon-Fri would be far more appropriate and would have the</p>

	<p>added benefit of allowing ECF evening activities to continue unhindered.</p> <p>3 The restrictions should not apply at the weekend The restrictions are proposed every day of the week, so ECF Sunday services (both morning and evening) would be adversely and unnecessarily impacted, along with all Saturday events, such as weddings, conferences, and the annual Family Fun day.</p> <p>4 A longer free period would be more beneficial There are very few meetings/church activities at ECF that are of less than 2 hours duration. The Council is already aware of this from the December 2018 objections and ongoing discussions and it is disappointing that more consideration of the activities of the church and its many community activities has not been taken into account.</p> <p>5 'Pay to Pray' It has been consistently put to the Council that 4 hours free, and unrestricted parking in the evenings and at the weekend would enable most of the activities at ECF to continue unimpeded, without any consequent accusation on the Council of causing the church to 'Pay to Pray'.</p> <p>I hope you will consider this carefully and the impacts it has on many of us and will decide to not go ahead with your plans.</p>
34) Resident, Objection	<p>Dear Sir,</p> <p>At these critical days that UK is facing this disease just like the rest of the world , we all as a nation must be united to destroy this invisible enemy Coronavirus in everyway possible and fast, supporting NHS as volunteers is the priority and prayers are very essential to defeat this virus , so please could you postponed this issue until the whole situation becomes normal ? All people now worried about their loved ones and is not a time to put more pressure on them. I appreciate any decision you make.</p>