

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19TH NOVEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE – 9TH DECEMBER 2024

Report by the Executive Director of Environment and Community Services on the outcome of a review of the Battersea Park Area (B) Controlled Parking Zone (Battersea Park Ward and Shaftesbury and Queenstown Ward)

SUMMARY

This report presents the outcome of a review of the Battersea Park Area Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) undertaken during the Summer and early Autumn of 2024. It outlines the background to the introduction of the Battersea Park Area CPZ (referred to throughout this report as the B zone, this being the permit identifier displayed on the parking bay signs and on the permits issued for this zone), the reasons why residents within the zone asked for the zone to be reviewed and presents the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken with residents and businesses within the zone during the summer of 2024.

The report outlines the operational assessments undertaken by the Parking Policy Team as well as including a review of the existing waiting restrictions at all road junctions within the B zone and proposes that these be changed to double yellow lines as part of the recommended changes to the operational days and hours of the B zone.

The consultation results show support for an extension of the parking controls (which currently operate 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday) so that they operate 9am to 8pm, Monday to Sunday, to further discourage commuter and weekend visitor long-stay parking, thereby providing greater priority for residents and essential business vehicles and improving road safety. Officers are aware that there are certain difficulties on Sundays and on busy Bank Holiday weekends, particularly those falling during the warmer months. Parking charges apply every day including Bank and Public holidays in the car parks within Battersea Park and therefore park visitors seek free parking on the surrounding streets on Sundays, Bank and Public holidays.

A summary of the responses to the key questions is provided within the report and the full results are provided within **Appendix 2**.

Having considered the results of the consultation exercise and all other relevant traffic and highway factors, the report recommends that the Council change the operational days and hours of this CPZ so that they operate Monday to Sunday between 9am and 8pm including Bank and Public holidays. The change in operational days/hours will require an amendment to the Traffic Management Order (TMO). These new operational days/hours are expected to be implemented during Spring 2025, subject there being no significant objections to the proposed TMO.

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The Executive Director of Finance comments that the costs associated with changing the operational days and hours of the Battersea Park Area CPZ are estimated to be up to £120,000. These costs will be met from within existing approved General Fund revenue budgets

GLOSSARY

CPZ - Controlled Parking Zone
TMO - Traffic Management Order

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to support the recommendations in paragraph 2. If they approve any views, comments or recommendations on the report, will be submitted to the Executive or to the appropriate regulatory and other committees for their consideration.
2. The Executive is recommended to:
 - (a) Note the outcome of the review consultation within the Battersea Park Area B zone (see **Appendix 1** – Location and boundary plan and **Appendix 2** – Summary of the consultation responses) undertaken during June / July 2024;
 - (b) Note the support for a change in the operational days and hours of B zone from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm to Monday to Sunday 9am to 8pm including Bank and Public holidays, and;
 - (c) Instruct the Executive Director of Environment and Community Services to:
 - (i) Make arrangements for the TMOs to be amended and subject to no upheld objections, to arrange for the operational days to be changed to Monday to Sunday and the hours changed to 9am to 8pm, including all Bank and Public holidays;
 - (ii) Write to all residents and businesses within the B zone of the outcome of the consultation and the decision to amend the operational days and hours of zone;
 - (iii) Update the Battersea Park Area (B zone) parking consultation webpage with the decision of the Council's Executive following the CPZ review and to include a link to this report, and;
 - (iv) Arrange for all necessary works to be undertaken to enable the new operational days and hours to be implemented on street.

INTRODUCTION

3. The Battersea Park Area CPZ (see **Appendix 1**) was introduced in the residential streets surrounding Battersea Park in June 1995 following a consultation with residents and businesses. The zone has a combination of Permit Holder Only bays and Shared Use (permit holder or pay and display / pay by mobile phone) bays allowing short stay visitors to park for up to 4 hours.
4. Parking controls operate in the car parks within Battersea Park itself Monday to Sunday, including Bank and Public holidays, between 9am and 5pm, with lower charges applying during weekends and on Bank and Public holidays.
5. The CPZ was designed to remove commuter and other long-stay non-residential traffic, helping to prioritise the limited available on-street parking for residents and essential business vehicles.

PETITIONS AND CALLS FROM RESIDENTS FOR CHANGES TO THE OPERATIONAL DAYS AND HOURS OF THE B ZONE

6. For many years, some residents have been calling for the Council to undertake a review of the B zone to address weekend parking difficulties, particularly during the summer months when large number of visitors to Battersea Park drive to the area and park on-street avoiding paying to park within the off-street car parks inside Battersea Park.
7. With the redevelopment of the Battersea Power Station site and the opening of the commercial element of that development in October 2023, as well as the opening of the new Battersea Power Station underground station and the regeneration of the wider Nine Elms area, residents of the B zone have continued to report parking difficulties in the area.

CPZ REVIEW – OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION – JUNE/JULY 2024

8. Following approval, all residents and businesses within the B zone boundary were invited to provide their views on how the parking controls were operating and whether they felt that any changes should be made to the operational days and/or hours.
9. The consultation opened on Monday 24 June 2024 and closed on Sunday 28 July 2024. A letter was hand delivered to each address within the zone which contained information on the reasons for the review. The letter included a link to an online survey and provided a QR code to enable residents and businesses to easily access the survey.
10. For those residents and/or businesses that were unable to complete an online survey, the letter provided details about how to request a hard copy questionnaire. Questionnaires together with a pre-paid return envelope, were sent to all addresses that requested one.
11. The results of the consultation (see **Appendix 2**) show that of the 4421 households and business addresses invited to provide their views, responses were received from

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504 addresses, giving an overall response rate of 11%. Whilst this is lower than the 25% target response rate, response rates for scheme reviews are frequently lower than consultations about possible new CPZs in areas where there are no parking controls. This is because parking conditions are usually less difficult where CPZ parking controls already operate. Officers feel that with more than 500 responses received, this review consultation provides a good indication of the views of residents and businesses within the B zone.

SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE KEY QUESTIONS

12. **Appendix 1** shows the consultation results. In summary these are:
- Of the 4421 properties consulted, 504 were completed – a response rate of 11% across the whole of the B zone
 - 312 (62%) of respondents are dissatisfied with the present parking controls in their street
 - In response to the question about whether the operational days should be changed or retained, 345 (61%) support changing the current operational days compared with 218 (38%) supporting retaining the current Monday to Friday operational days
 - The further question asking, “What days do you think the CPZ controls should operate?” resulted in support from 213 (37%) for retaining the existing operational days, with respondents (5%) supporting Monday to Saturday, and 324 (57%) supporting Monday to Sunday
 - In response to the question about whether the operational hours should be retained or changed, 278 (49%) support retaining the existing hours (9am to 5pm), with 283 (50%) indicating they should be changed
 - The further question about the operational hours shows that 271 (48%) prefer to keep the current hours (9am to 5pm), with 104 (18%) supporting a change to 9am to 6.30pm and 186 (33%) supporting a change to 9am to 8pm
13. The results of the consultation exercise show most respondents support a change in B zone’s operational days so that they operate Monday to Sunday (7 days a week), with 9am to 8pm being the single most supported option on the choice of longer operational hours.
14. Officers have considered the views expressed by those who responded to the consultation together with the parking occupancy survey data and recommend that the zone be redesignated to operate Monday to Sunday (including Bank and Public holidays) between 9am and 8pm, to deter commuters, shoppers and in particular those using Battersea Park, those visiting the new retail and commercial elements of the Battersea Power Station development and also commuters and shoppers using the new Battersea Park Power Station tube station.
15. The works associated with amending the operational days and hours would include amending the existing Battersea Park Area TMOs, replacing all existing parking related traffic signs and refreshing or amending existing bay markings.

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16. As part of the CPZ Review officers have also taken the opportunity to review the yellow lines at all road junctions within the B zone as indicated to residents and businesses within the CPZ review consultation letter. Officers are recommending that the existing single yellow lines at junctions be replaced with double yellow lines to prevent dangerous or obstructive parking and improve road safety for all highway users. Where necessary to prevent obstruction, some other lengths of existing single yellow line will be replaced with double yellow lines.
17. The costs associated with amending the CPZ controls as indicated above would include replacing all existing parking bay signs, refreshing both yellow lines (with any existing single yellow lines at junctions being changed to double yellow lines (No waiting/parking 'at any time'), and refreshing all parking bay markings.
18. If the recommendations in this report are supported, officers will prepare a detailed implementation plan and will write to all households and businesses within the B zone to inform them of the Council's decision, providing an outline timescale for the introduction of the extended operational days and hours.

SUPPORTING THE WANDSWORTH ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY (WESS)

19. The introduction of CPZs aimed at managing and controlling demand for on-street parking space supports the objectives of the Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability Strategy (WESS) by helping to restrain ownership of private vehicles and to encourage active / sustainable transport options.

COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

20. The Executive Director of Finance comments that the costs associated with changing the operational days and hours of the Battersea Park Area CPZ are estimated to be up to £120,000. These costs will be met from within existing approved General Fund revenue budgets.

CONCLUSION

21. The Executive Director of Environment and Community Services having carefully considered the results of the review consultation exercise together with all other relevant highway factors proposes that the Battersea Park Area CPZ be changed so that it operates Monday to Sunday, including Bank and Public holidays between 9am and 8pm.

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PAUL CHADWICK
Executive Director of Environment and
Community Services

11th November 2024

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Background papers

There are no background papers to this report.

All reports to Committees, the Executive and the full Council can be viewed on the Council's website (www.wandsworth.gov.uk/the-council/council-decision-making/) unless the report was published before May 2001, in which case the Democratic Services Officer can supply it if required.