

ATTACHMENT A

From EFDC's Leisure and Parking team manager

I wanted to get in touch for the Town Council's possible help regarding the conversion of Police bays limited wait bays for visitor parking in Epping High Street please.

Following concerns raised around the designated Police bays in Epping High Street not being used since the closure of the station, we have explored the possibility of converting these spaces to limited waiting bays to provide more spaces for Town visitors, which will result in increased footfall to the area.

In order to convert the existing Police bays to limited waiting bays, a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is required and this is arranged via NEPP, who is responsible for on-street parking. We have submitted a TRO application to NEPP, for the conversion of the Police Bays to "Limited waiting Tue-Sat 9am-5.30pm 1hr No Return within 3 hours" to mirror existing restrictions outside local shops (i.e. M&S).

As part of the application process, we have had confirmation from the Police that there is no real requirement for these spaces to remain as Police bays, and we have also made contact with local businesses and it clear that the change of use would be welcomed.

All TRO applications received are considered annually by the District Council, and we are only able to recommend a maximum of 6 funded parking schemes per year. Our recommendations are then considered by the NEPP Joint Parking Committee and if the schemes are approved, they will go through a formal consultation process. Any objections and comments are processed and considered by NEPP which would decide how schemes progress.

We are currently reviewing TRO applications received (we have 14 schemes this year but only able to recommend 6), and use prioritisation scoring as per the NEPP process to recommend higher priority schemes. There are some schemes which we think are beneficial, but cannot be funded as they exceed the allocated number of schemes that we are able to recommend, so we wanted to get in touch with Town/Parish Councils if they would consider funding such schemes.

This particular scheme does not score high on the priority list as there are higher priority schemes where Healthy & Safety is a concern. On this basis, the current recommendation is that this scheme is deferred, however, we appreciate the importance of this scheme to promote the footfall and support the local economy in Epping. We wanted to ask if the Town Council would consider funding the scheme, which is estimated to cost £1,360 + VAT please? If the Town Council agree to fund the scheme, then we could recommend this scheme for approval, in addition to the 6 schemes.

Leisure and Parking Team Manager

Further questions from the Town Clerk:

The Town Clerk requested clarification on Mondays, with regard to supporting the market and also what enforcement is in place regarding the parking bays, as they are currently frequently used.

Response from EFDC:

The proposed restrictions mirror the existing restrictions already in place in the High Street. There are no parking restrictions on the High Street on Mondays due to the Market, and also

no restrictions on Sundays. As we are only looking at converting the existing Police bays to visitor bays (approx. around 4 spaces), it makes sense to mirror existing restrictions so that it is easier for visitors and also more operationally efficient.

I know NEPP do have a rota and carry out patrols in the High Street, however, unfortunately I cannot advise how frequent/when these visits are as I do not have access to this information.

Clarification

For clarity, the existing Police bay restrictions are "No waiting at any time except Police vehicles", the restrictions apply 24/7 and therefore at present, no vehicle other than Police vehicles are able to park in these spaces at any time.

The visitor parking bays outside the shops on the High Street have the "Limited waiting Tue-Sat 9am-5.30pm 1hr No Return within 3 hours" restrictions. There is a valid Traffic Regulation Order (see below) and signs on the High Street to this effect. This means that on Sundays and Mondays, there are no parking restrictions, and no limit on the number of hours you can stay in the visitor parking bays.

We are proposing that the Police bays are converted to visitor parking bays, mirroring the existing limited waiting restrictions.

