

Report of the Public Meeting

The impact on our High Road
businesses and organisations



Held: 11th April 2024

Organised by East Finchley Town Team

<https://www.eastfinchley.london/> for
background materials

Contact us: eftownteam@gmail.com

East Finchley Town Team organised a public meeting re the recently proposed CPZ in East Finchley on Thursday 11 April 2024, at 7:30pm at East Finchley Constitutional Club.

Executive Summary

Purpose of meeting

To invite East Finchley residents, businesses and other organisations to hear the history behind the Council's proposed extended Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ); To hear the Town Team's views; To hear the views of local residents, businesses and organisations opposed to and in favour of the proposed new CPZ, the implementation of which is now on hold following strong objections expressed to Council just prior to implementation; To allow the Council's representative (Cllr Alan Schneiderman) to respond, and to understand next steps.

Approximately 80 people were present including Cllr Alison Moore and members of the East Finchley Town Team who hosted the meeting. Attendees also included local residents, residents of sheltered housing developments, and representatives from local businesses, community organisations and schools.

The current and proposed extended CPZs were outlined to the meeting. All noted that the new proposals had been "paused" following objections from a significant number of individuals and representatives of businesses and organisations.

Concerns expressed by attendees were broadly as follows:

- Poor Council communications resulting in no meaningful consultation process including a survey whose questions were unhelpfully multiple choice and which tended to lead responders towards agreement to the proposed new CPZ;
- The published Council reports states that East Finchley is well served by public transport when the area is classed as Poor by the official Public Transport Accessibility level (PTAL) data.
- Concern that the statistics relating to responses appeared to have been interpreted in such a way as to suggest that there was community agreement to the CPZ extension;
- Lack of explanation of justification and rationale behind the new CPZ proposal;
- Petrol fuelled vehicles to be charged higher parking charges than electric vehicles for no clear reason as they require same amount of space;
- Existing CPZs do not appear to be scrupulously patrolled/monitored;
- Why vary the time periods? One hour in some roads, two hours in others, and four proposed in others;

- The needs of the elderly and disabled, and their visitors and carers, appeared to have been ignored; this is also true for staff and visitors to local community centres;
- There are many parking issues which will not be resolved by a CPZ, including inaccessibility for first responder vehicles in narrow roads;
- Local High Road and other local businesses will be negatively impacted;
- The ability of schools to recruit staff will be impacted, as many staff live outside the local area and cannot afford the additional parking costs; the same is true for staff from local businesses who live outside the area.

Council Response

Cllr Schneiderman explained that the reasons behind the proposals included commuter parking issues, petitions received (although he recognised that some were unreliable), loading facility requests, and displaced parking issues. However, he acknowledged that communications from the Council to the community had been poor and undertook that the extended CPZ scheme as originally proposed would not go ahead, pending a possible future consultation process once the relevant Council departments had considered the responses from this meeting.

Requested future approach by Council

It was suggested that this matter provided the opportunity for the Highways Department to adopt a new approach and that any further consultation should be handled very differently. It should:

- Take into account all the above concerns;
- Provide full details of the reasons/justification behind any proposed additional CPZs,
- Assess the full impact of any extended CPZs on individuals (including the elderly and disabled), traders, businesses, community organisations and schools;
- Acknowledge the value of a proactive and engaged local community by using existing local networks such as The Archer newspaper and local social media to promote the details;
- For purposes of clear communication, involve the East Finchley Town Team regarding the format and questions on any new public survey;
- Not increase the operating hours of existing East Finchley CPZs immediately adjacent to High Road.

All agreed the value of the meeting, and Cllr Schneiderman and Cllr Moore were thanked for their very helpful attendance.

East Finchley Town Team

15.04.24

**East Finchley Town Team Open meeting re recently proposed CPZ
Thursday 11 April 2024, at 7:30pm at East Finchley Constitutional Club**

In attendance from East Finchley Town Team: Kate Brown (Chair), Roger Chapman (Treasurer), Fiona Doyle (Town Team website), Peter Hale (EFOA), Diana Cormack (The Archer), Cllr. Alison Moore, Ruth Anders (Secretary).

Apologies: Gail Coles (EFCT), Cllr. Claire Farrier, Cllr. Arjun Mittra.

Also present: Cllr. Alan Schneiderman (Barnet's Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change), John Lawrence (Editor, The Archer), David Gritten (The Archer), Hilary Townley (East Finchley Summer Festival).

Approximately 70 – 80 others attended the meeting.

Purpose of meeting

To hear the history behind the Council's extended Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) proposal; To hear the Town Team's views; To hear the views of local residents, businesses and organisations opposed to and in favour of the proposed new CPZ, whose implementation is now on hold following strong objections expressed to Council just prior to implementation; To allow the Council's representative (Cllr Schneiderman) to respond, and to understand next steps.

EFTT Chair Kate Brown welcomed the 80 or so attendees, and outlined the shape of the meeting.

Roger Chapman explained the history of the Town Team and, with the help of a Powerpoint presentation, outlines the Town Team's understanding of the CPZ situation:

The Council report had stated that "These issues are specific to your area:

- Commuter parking and access problems on the Thomas More estate, particularly during weekends
- Parking issues in King Street, Church Lane, Elmfield Road, Long Lane and Creighton Avenue
- A petition received from residents of Chandos Road requesting CPZ controls
- Request for short term parking for people visiting local shops and businesses
- Loading facilities requested to support the operations of local businesses
- Displaced parking from the recently introduced or amended CPZs
- Motorists parking at junctions causing safety issues for road users".

Roger added a word about what the Town Team sees as massaged statistics regarding those apparently in favour of the extended CPZ proposals and outlined the Team's recommendations to the Council for the way forward, namely:

- If there is a need for more East Finchley CPZs, full and proper consultation

- Work cooperatively with local community on any future CPZ consultations and proposals
- Use existing community networks eg The Archer newspaper and local social media in addition to normal Council approaches to consultation
- Full impact of any extended CPZ on traders, businesses, community organisations and schools to be assessed
- No increase in operating hours of existing East Finchley CPZs immediately adjacent to High Road

Cllr Schneiderman Barnet Cabinet member for Environment and Climate Change outlined his portfolio which includes parking. He talked about what the Council sees as inevitable parking displacement following the introduction of any CPZ, which in turn prompts requests for further CPZs. This was the main reason behind the 2021 proposal for an increased CPZ in East Finchley. This initiative has now been paused*, pending further consultation. Cllr Schneiderman assured those present that there would be a new consultation and that the Council is determined to work *with* the local community on any CPZ proposal.

The meeting was then thrown open to the floor, and questions and comments were as follows.

Resident/business from	Question/comment
Unknown	I have emailed the Council using the email address provided and received no response. How many responses were received to the Council's questionnaire? This would affect the stats.
Sylvester Road	This resident initiated his own petition and collected 1,136 signatures. Queried lack of supporting information provided by Council to support CPZ extension. Important to see the justification for the proposal. Whether limited parking from 1100 – 1600 or 1400 to 1500, a permit is still required. Why is there a higher charge for a petrol vehicle than for an electric vehicle? That's what ULEZ is for. Vehicle still needs same space no matter how powered. Queried the description "experimental" when applied to the proposed new CPZ. The cost of this "experiment" will be huge. The recently introduced cycle lanes were described as "experimental" but they're still there. How will the new CPZ be policed? No sign of much enforcement for existing CPZs in High Road areas. The "pause" was only instigated when the community objected after being informed that the CPZ would be introduced in four

	<p>days' time! The majority of East Finchley aren't even aware that it's been paused, as there has been no communication to say so.</p> <p>The whole process of "consultation" lacks credibility, and looks like a revenue generating exercise.</p> <p>We would all like to see a full consultation take place with all the available supporting information, justification for an increased CPZ and details of the problems that need resolving.</p> <p>Why not just have a consistent Borough wide CPZ and be done with it?</p> <p><i>Cllr Schneiderman acknowledged the late pause and the poor communications. Every road had different parking challenges. He reminded those present that all revenue raised from parking issues must be invested into Council Highways network (incl. repair of potholes). He added that the experimental approach was useful in that it allows for amendments after six months.</i></p>
Roger Chapman	<p>The Council's Report had several appendices. He had asked to see them but his Freedom of Information request had been refused, as the documents were apparently "still in the process of completion", which suggested that the data behind the Report did not support the end result.</p>
A N Other	<p>The questions in the consultation questionnaire were slanted towards an answer which suggested the respondent was in favour of the CPZ. How were those answers interpreted?</p>
Off Long Lane	<p>Please don't create problems where there aren't any. Please also consider the needs of the vulnerable and disabled. One size does not fit all.</p>
A N Other	<p>The published report states that East Finchley is well served by public transport, but the area is classed as Poor by official Public Transport Accessibility level (PTAL) data. The report also refers to Burnt Oak which is not in East Finchley.</p>
Brackenbury Rd	<p>There are many parking issues which will not be solved by a CPZ. No problem in my road until 5pm.</p> <p>Agreed that survey questions pushed the answers towards agreeing to a CPZ. And longer hours (1100 – 1500) are not needed. Just efficient enforcement! 1 hour is sufficient to generate revenue.</p>
Manor Park Rd	<p>No problem with parking during the day.</p>
Brendon Grove	<p>I walked the area with Cllr Arjun Mittra, who sent questions to the Council but got no response. The reason for the four hours is that a camera car is used to police and takes a long time to get round!</p>

Huntingdon Road	1100 – 1500 is the time when High Road businesses make most of their money. If people cannot park, they won't come and businesses will have to close. Also re older and infirm people: Much harder for them to use an app for parking and carers will not be able to just pop in – makes for further isolation.
Head Teacher of Martin PS	The proposed extended CPZ will impact our ability to recruit staff. Young teachers cannot afford to live in East Finchley and need to travel by car with heavy books etc. To expect them to pay £210 as an annual parking permit on top of their other travel expenses is unrealistic. Along with other schools (Archer Academy, Holy Trinity etc) we compete for staff with Haringey Council where salaries are higher (inner London as compared to barnets Outer London weighting), and will lose out because of this.
Representative of small businesses	The staff of most small local businesses travel from outside East Finchley, so very costly for them to park.
Local sheltered housing development	We were not given the opportunity to take part in te consultation. Some of us are unable to stand, let alone walk. We're not on a scheme for visitors' permits and will suffer increased isolation because of difficulty for visitors to park.
Chandos Road	No displacement problems in my road. But of the road's petition, only 25 out of the 93 signatures lived in Chandos Road! People got their friends from Enfield to sign, and this was used as justification for the CPZ extension.
Heathview	Displacement problems and also residents of Oak Lodge need to be involved in any consultation,
A N Other	Looks like stats were massaged. Please don't do this again! And what does "a pause*" mean?
Trinity Road	There are other factors to take into account apart from a CPZ. Outside my house, if two cars parked opposite each other there is insufficient space for a fire engine. The other days an ambulance had to wait to get through. And my road is not the narrowest in the area.
Trinity Road	Most houses are only the width of one car, and yet residents can apply for permits for up to four cars. This is insane and extended CPZ does not solve this problem.
Sylvester Road	There are several community centres near our road (Ann Owens etc); increased CPZ would prevent people who drive to the centres from parking, in which case they probably would stop coming.
Brendon Grove	Our road is a long way from the tube station. For me it's not only costs, but I'm neuro-diverse, so having to think about visitor parking permits means more brain clutter and more stress.
A N Other	The original consultation took place for four weeks over Christmas during Lockdown. The multiple-choice questions did not allow for objections to the new CPZ. Questions must be

	redesigned. I spent hours on my computer searching for a Council email address to ask questions without luck. Very stressful!
Lincoln Road	Please be mindful of local businesses, not one of which would support a CPZ extension (drivers have only 10 minutes free parking). It's vital to keep our High Road alive.
Businesses on Church Lane	Jennie Mann Florist, Il Piccolo Villaggio and Emily Hair Salon: Any CPZ extension would impact us badly. Already no parking outside our shops because of "experimental" cycle lane.
Brackenbury Rd	I've tried to get a disabled parking bay moved for two years – no action.
A N Other	We have to spend £40 to get just three visitors passes.
Slimming World	We operate out of East Finchley Methodist Church, and have a small car park for use by some of our members who are elderly and/or disabled. An increased CPZ would mean able bodied people would use this car park and our ability to support our less able bodied members would be badly affected.

Cllr Alison Moore said that the Council representatives here this evening had listened to the points raised and she would be happy to talk to anyone who had further comments to make.

Cllr Schneiderman promised that the extended CPZ scheme as originally proposed would NOT go ahead.

In conclusion, Kate Brown said that, thanks to questions raised, the Town Team had been able to capture a breadth of views. She thanked Cllr Schneiderman and Cllr Moore for attending, and said it was easy to conclude that, from everything heard this evening, the proposal as it stood should be withdrawn and not be re-proposed.

If there was to be any further consultation, it would be helpful if the Council could seek the Town Team's views on the questions included on any public survey.

Roger Chapman added that here was an opportunity for the Highways Department to adopt a new approach. East Finchley has a very proactive community who will work with the Council, but we do need to understand the issues and achieve meaningful objectives.

Thanks

Thanks to all those who attended the meeting and to Ruth Anders of Town Team for taking detailed notes.