

## Full Council Meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### Agenda Item CC1613/16

### Parking in Croxley Green

#### Introduction

At the meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March, under item CC1588/16, the Council resolved:

- *That the Council noted the progress of the Working Party and that the Working Party prepare a specific proposal for discussion and approval at a future Parish Council Meeting;*
- *That the Council subsequently writes to Three Rivers District Council setting out the findings with a specific recommendation for action;*
- *That the Council noted the positive response from County and District Councillors and that the Council sets up a new Working Party with a remit to investigate parking problems in Croxley Green more widely and specifically (in the first instance) those caused by commuters parking for access to Croxley station.*

This paper reports progress and proposes a way forward.

#### Discussion

##### Watford Road Working Party

Cllr Ridley resigned from the Watford Road Working Party on 18<sup>th</sup> April.

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April Cllr Gallagher summarised the progress of the Working Party. The Meeting was asked whether the Parish Council should investigate parking problems more widely in Croxley Green and propose possible solutions. By a show of hands there was a consensus in favour of wider car parking investigations.

A further meeting of the Working Party was held on 10<sup>th</sup> May (after the District Council elections) but only Cllrs Gallagher & Vassiliou attended. (Apologies from Cllr Peter Getkahn Cllr Kaur and Linda Anderson; Beth Devonshire did not respond).

We concluded that the Working Party should be wound up with a final report to Council proposing a letter to Three Rivers District Council reporting the findings of the whole study and recommending a series of trials (using temporary Traffic Regulation Orders, rather than permanent TROs)

Subsequently Peter Simons who is working part-time as the interim Traffic Engineer in Regulatory Services, Three Rivers District Council wrote to the Parish Council (9<sup>th</sup> June 2016)

*“The District Council has a current item on our work programme to carry out an area-wide study of parking around Croxley Green and I am in the process of commissioning on other works in the area. I am informed by our Members that the Parish Council may be carrying out some kind of study into parking.”*

*"I'm afraid that I don't have any better detail than this, so they could be talking about something quite different, but I would just like to check whether you have any knowledge of this? I have checked our records and am fairly confident that we have not previously heard from the Parish on this matter, but if I'm wrong on this then please let me know and accept my apologies."*

As chair of the Working Party, Cllr Gallagher met Peter Simons informally on 14<sup>th</sup> June to explain what the Parish Council had done so far and discuss the best way to take things forward.

### **Bicycles at Croxley Station**

Separately, following a suggestion at the Council meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March, the use of the bicycle stands at Croxley Green station has been monitored, initially by Cllr Gallagher and, following discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting, by Janet Martin.

In summary, the existing 10 "Sheffield" stands are often fully used and the overspill bicycles are attached to various items of street furniture (road signs, sign posts and lamp posts) down Winton Drive. The 10 stands will accommodate 20 bicycles. Over the past weeks there are typically at least 17 bicycles each day, and as many as 27 have been counted (23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016).

### **Recommendation(s)**

- That the Parish Council notes the conclusions of the Working Party and writes to Three Rivers District Council (draft letter attached).
- That the Watford Road Working Party be wound up
- That the Parish Council notes the requirement for additional provision for cycles at Croxley Station and writes to Three Rivers District Council and to Transport for London (draft letter attached)

Cllr Andrew Gallagher  
14 June 2016

## Draft letter to Three Rivers District Council

### Car Parking in Croxley Green

Concerns about commuters parking on the Watford Road in the vicinity of Croxley Metropolitan Line Station were raised with the Parish Council by local businesses and residents late last year (2015).

The Parish Council set up a small working group and carried out a limited study into the problem and the issues, leading to a report to the Council on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015 (copy enclosed). Following discussion it was agreed to consult local residents and businesses on the Watford Road on the possible options for controlling parking as a basis for deciding what road marking or parking restrictions to recommend to the traffic authority.

There are, in total, 15 residential properties and one business on the north side of the Watford Road from The Crescent to New Road (numbers 103 to 131 plus the Red House pub). On the south side there are 9 residential properties from Gonville Avenue to Southam Mews (numbers 114 to 130) and 14 business properties (11 with accommodation over) from Southam Mews to the railway bridge (numbers 136 to 160).

Letters dated 8<sup>th</sup> February addressed "to whom it may concern" reference 574-585 were delivered by hand 8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> February with a questionnaire and a request for return to the Parish Council offices by 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. The responses to the questionnaire survey were analysed and discussed by the working group.

In order to establish residents' and businesses' views more clearly, letters reference 575-585 dated 1<sup>st</sup> March addressed to the same properties were delivered by hand, enclosing a detailed report on the first questionnaire and the finding of the investigation together with a preference exercise. The four options were explained and recipients were invited to list the options in order of preference and return the attached form to the Parish Council offices.

The results were reported to the Council on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 (copy enclosed).

The Parish Council invites the District Council to consider the views expressed by residents and businesses in these reports.

The Parish Council requests that Three Rivers District Council, acting as agent for Hertfordshire County Council, introduces parking restrictions on both sides of the Watford Road to discourage "all-day" parking by commuters using Croxley Station, to provide short term parking for visitors to the adjacent properties and businesses during the working day and to improve the flow of traffic.

The Parish Council recommends that, rather than consult on permanent Traffic Regulation Orders, the District Council seeks the County Council's agreement in this particular instance to restrict parking using temporary TROs as a first step, so that residents and businesses can see the effect of different forms of parking restriction before they are made permanent.

The Parish Council recommends that the District Council trials a single hour ban on each side of the road (at different times of day each side, on working days Monday to Friday) in the first instance without residents' parking permits, to test the effect.

The Parish Council recommends that the District Council then trials a limited duration parking period (2 hours with no return within 4 hours during the working day) in the first instance without residents' parking permits, to test the effect.

The Parish Council recommends that an informal crossing point be installed across the Watford Road between Gonville Avenue and The Crescent, to reduce the apparent road

width and discourage excessive speed when there are fewer cars parked along this length of the Watford Road.

The Parish Council welcomes the District Council's intention to carry out a comprehensive study of car parking issues in Croxley Green and wishes to co-operate with the study.

## **Draft letter to Three Rivers District Council and Transport for London**

### **Bicycle Parking at Croxley Station**

Local residents have expressed concern at Council meetings and at the Annual Parish Meeting (2016) about the lack of sufficient provision for parking bicycles at Croxley Station.

Councillors and local residents have been observing the number parked adjacent to the station where there are 10 “Sheffield” stands provided by Three Rivers District Council which can accommodate up to 20 bicycles.

Over the past weeks there have been typically at least 17 bicycles each day, and as many as 27 have been counted (23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016). The overspill bicycles are attached to various items of street furniture (road signs, sign posts and lamp posts) down Winton Drive.

The Parish Council has been made aware that Three Rivers District Council is considering how to improve and increase provision for safe cycle parking in and around Croxley Station.

The Parish Council supports this initiative and wishes to see full co-operation between Three Rivers District Council and Transport for London to improve provision for sustainable modes of transport at Croxley Station.

Particularly bearing in mind that the car park at the station appears to be full at some time of each working day and there is widespread overspill parking of vehicles used by commuters in the surrounding streets leading to congestion and obstruction and reducing the parking space available on the streets for local residents and local businesses.