

RIVERSIDE COACH PARK / GUILDHALL CAR PARKS
FORMAL CONSULTATION

Name	Date	Comments	Opinion		Councils' response
			For	Against	
POLICE	28/07/16	Thank you for your email and attachments regarding the proposed changes to the existing parking restrictions on the Riverside Coach park and The Guildhall, Bath. I understand from the Statement of Reasons that "Due to essential flood mitigation and flood defence works to the north and south banks of the River Avon, a change in operation of the Riverside Coach Park is proposed from the current long term parking facility (Pay and Display) to short term (drop-off/pick-up) use" as shown on drawing DW1-TRO-VAR1 and that "The Council proposes to remove the existing Pay for Parking during Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays, and to replace it by extending the current Permit Parking so that it will be in operation 24 hours per day, 7days per week." at the Guildhall, as shown on drawing DW1-TRO-VAR4. Enforcement of off-street and on street parking restrictions rests with Bath and North East Somerset Council Parking Services. The proposals should meet the aspirations contained in the Statement of Reasons for each proposal.	✓		
N S	01/08/16	<p>a) The drawing shows two areas hatched, this seems to indicate that existing parking restrictions are being removed from both of these areas and that the proposed parking restrictions are being applied to both....is this correct or do we need to have a different drawing to show existing and then proposed?</p> <p>b) Up to now the conversion of Avon Street Coach Park to a drop off and pick up zone as opposed to an area for long stay parking has been put in place temporarily. This TRO now formalises the situation, however are we confident that as an authority we have planned for sufficient long stay parking provision for coaches coming into Bath in the future, especially at Christmas, or do we need to await the results of the Coach Parking Strategy which is about to be commissioned? This TRO appears to be a little premature in terms of the findings from the Coach Parking Strategy.</p> <p>c) In addition to coaches the Riverside Coach Park previously provided an area for HGV drivers to lay over as well. Has this been taken into account with regards this proposed change, where are these drivers now going to go instead as they can't use Weston Island.</p> <p>d) How is the authority going to enforce the Riverside Coach Park as a drop off and pick up zone? Are there going to be Marshalls available to ensure drivers don't stay too long or is this going to be enforced by parking Services through their CEOs?</p>			<p>a) This is correct. Whilst the coach park has been reduced in size, we will for this year's Christmas Market have the use of the southern area which is currently the BQN contractors compound. We have therefore included this as an additional area to allow it to be covered by the TRO when in use for coaches.</p> <p>b) This formalises the existing parking arrangements within the coach park allowing the Council to enforce the restrictions. Without this the Council has no power to ensure that turnover of the remaining coach parking spaces is maintained by preventing coaches, and HGVs, from dropping off passengers and remaining on site all day. The Coach Parking Strategy will address the longer term requirements for coaches and how this may be met, however this will not be through the provision of parking at this site due to planned redevelopment as part of the BQN redevelopment.</p> <p>c) The significant reduction in capacity of the redesigned coach park due to the BQN redevelopment has resulted in HGV parking being removed during controlled hours. There is currently no provision for HGV drivers who are now required to layover at on the highway where restrictions allow.</p> <p>d) This TRO ensures that the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers are able to enforce the drop off and pick up restriction within the site. During peak occasions, such as major events, the Council may provide additional security staff through an existing contract to facilitate the safe management of coaches on site.</p>

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J B	01/08/16	<p>CPT very definitely do wish to comment. I am most grateful to you for forwarding this to me. I am however not clear on the background to this consultation. Surely the Riverside Coach Park is already pick-up and set-down only and has been for some months (since January?). Is this merely a formalising of the arrangement which someone has decided needs to be done? I spoke with Claire Parker a couple of weeks ago and my understanding from that conversation is that the remaining bays being used for pu/sd will be available for such use for the foreseeable future while alternative facilities are found. I have been told that some discussion about possible alternatives might start to be made public from September onwards, but until then the existing arrangements will apply.</p> <p>I am somewhat surprised that BANES appear happy with the current situation where coach drivers are using the Wellsway and other 'nooks and crannies' to park their vehicles rather than head out to Weston Island. Until such time as some proper alternatives are made available it is my concern that drivers will continue to seek alternative locations if they visit Bath at all. I'd be very interested to know whether anyone has undertaken any analysis of the number of coaches visiting Bath since these changes. Certainly James Freeman has implied that the numbers using Weston Island were well below what had been predicted.</p> <p>I assume the notes about the Guildhall car park are simply added to this circular. I don't see any immediate impact on buses or coaches with that change.</p>			<p>The consultation that Andy has passed to you is, as you have surmised, a formalisation of the arrangements already in place at the Riverside Coach Park. This has unfortunately been delayed until now for a number of reasons; however it is not progressing.</p> <p>Your understanding from your conversation with Claire Parker is correct.</p> <p>Through negotiations with First we have made the facilities at Weston Island available to all coaches, however; we are not able to force drivers or operators to make use of it.</p> <p>Your concerns are echoed within the Council and work is currently underway to identify ways to address this and this will include an analysis of coaches visiting Bath. However; ultimately vehicles are free to park on the highway where restrictions allow. Our Civil Enforcement Officers are only authorised to take appropriate action where a contravention is occurring.</p> <p>The changes to the Guildhall car park are unrelated to any changes taking place at the Riverside Coach Park, however both sites are included within the same Traffic Regulation Order and including them together is for reasons of efficiency only.</p>
Cllr A F	07/08/16	<p>I note that the coach park is being revised to 30 mins drop off/ pick up no charge. Can you or your colleagues update me please whether the coach park will remain in the long term future, eg the purple hatched areas on the plan, or whether this is just a temporary arrangement until the coach park is removed from this location all together. If the latter what is the plan to coach management as I notice more are dropping off in Bog Island - is this the acceptable alternative?</p>			<p>This change formalises the existing parking arrangements within the coach park allowing the Council to enforce the restrictions. This ensures that the turnover of the remaining coach parking spaces is maintained by preventing coaches, and HGVs, from dropping off passengers and remaining on site all day.</p> <p>The existing site of the coach park is within the development area for the Bath Quays North redevelopment. The longer term requirements for coaches within Bath, and how demand will be met, is being addressed with the development of a Coach Parking Strategy which will be circulated to stakeholders for comment when available. I am unable to give an indication when this will be, however it is not expected before the end of the current financial year.</p>
A R	11/08/16	<p>The Statement of Reasons does not appear to be a valid document. It restates the proposal but does not give any reason for it; the question 'why' is not answered. Since this proposal is removing a parking facility which is available to the public (including customers of the Guildhall Market and ourselves as nearby residents) I believe it is important that the reason is made clear in the official documentation. I left a telephone message at the designated number, but my call was not returned. I called again, and this time managed to speak to a member of staff. However again there was no clear 'reason' given. Mention was made that the request came from a senior council official as part of strategic thinking; mention was also made of unauthorised use but this appeared to be as a result of the barrier (previously used Monday to Friday) not working and not being fixed for several months – a factor readily addressable by the Council. No information was forthcoming on why existing permit holders (mainly councillors and aldermen I believe) now required sole access at weekends and bank holidays; nor was I advised if permits were to be given to any new types of user. Would you please provide a valid Statement of Reasons, and email me a copy. Logically I believe the Objections and Consultations period should restart from the date of issue of a valid Statement of Reasons. If the current Statement of Reasons is not replaced with a document which answers the question 'why' would you please treat tis email as a formal objection.</p>		✓	<p>Thank you for comments regarding the above consultation</p> <p>I can confirm that the recommendation is being made to withdraw the proposals for the Guildhall car park as advertised. Further to the comments you have made, this process will be revisited and any necessary changes made accordingly.</p>