

PROPOSED DIPLOMATIC PARKING BAYS ON BEDFORD ROW

NON KEY DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR FOR RENGERNATION & PLANNING

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report seeks approval for proposals to create 6 new diplomatic bays on Bedford Row. The request for these bays has been received from the Malaysian High Commission whose consulate office have recently relocated to Bedford Row. Originally the High Commission approached the Council with a request for 14 diplomatic parking bays, officers didn't accept this request due to the detrimental impact it would have on existing parking facilities on Bedford Row, officers entered into intensive negotiation with the high commission and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to reduce the number down to 6 bays. In order to accommodate the 6 new parking bays a number of changes are required which are outlined as follows a drawing illustrating the proposals has been attached with this report as Appendix A

1. Removal of two 5 metre paid for parking bays (2 car parking spaces) and 10 metres of existing single yellow line from outside 52 Bedford Row. This will provide 4 car parking spaces for diplomatic vehicles (20 metres).
2. Removal of one 10metre paid for parking bay (2 car parking spaces). This will provide 2 car parking spaces for use by diplomatic vehicles.
3. In order to compensate for the loss in paid for parking bays, a new 25 metre paid for parking bay (5 car parking spaces) is proposed outside 49-51 Bedford Row. To accommodate this the following changes are required:
 - 5 metre paid for parking bay (1 car parking space) located outside 1 Bedford Row will be removed and converted to single yellow line. This to ensure that vehicles can pass through safely.
 - The existing car club bay (2 car parking spaces) located outside 48 Bedford Row will be moved to outside 46 Bedford Row, replacing the existing single yellow line.

CONSULTATION PROCESS:

Level 1 consultation methodology process for Engineering and Transport Strategy services.

Consultation analysis:

Approximately 250 leaflets were distributed to local residents, businesses, local and statutory groups and Ward Members. The consultation was also published on Camden's online consultation hub, allowing consultees to submit responses to the consultation electronically via completing an online survey. Street notices were erected on local lamp columns inviting those impacted by the proposals to comment.

Of the 250 leaflets distributed only 3 responses were received, one response was in favour, one in objection and one had no opinion.

One response from local resident received in objection: the resident expressed that they understood the need to provide the new high commission diplomatic parking spaces, however didn't agree that the Council should compensate for the loss of paid for parking spaces by reducing single yellow line space. The resident commented that the creation of additional marked parking bays and signage has a negative visual impact on the street and the single yellow line should be maintained.

Officer Comments:

Officers understand the paid for parking bays are well used in Bedford Row and these meet short-term parking needs for those people visiting organisations on Bedford Row, Red Lion Street and Lamb's Conduit Street. The Council has a policy to keep street clutter to a minimum where possible and any signage would be attached to existing street furniture where possible, however additional signage would be required to ensure parking bays are compliant with the statutory traffic order and Traffic Signs and General Directions 2016.

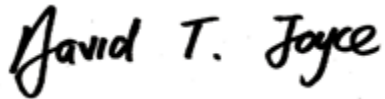
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of implementing these changes, including officer's time charge for undertaking feasibility, public consultation, will be met by the Malaysian High Commission.

OFFICERS COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION:

Having carefully considered this application and the responses to the consultation, within the context of the current legislation, officers recommend that the proposed changes be approved subject to detail design and statutory requirements.

Signed by Director:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David T. Joyce". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Joyce
Director of Regeneration and Planning
Supporting Communities Directorate
Date: 9th March 2018

Design Engineer: Tabrez Hussain
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Dated: 05 March 2018

REPORT ENDS