

**STOCKPORT COUNCIL**  
**EXECUTIVE REPORT – SUMMARY SHEET**

**Subject: Stepping Hill – Proposed Permit Parking Zones**

**Report to:** Stepping Hill Area Committee,  
Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport

**Date:** Tuesday, 21 July 2020

**Report of:** Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration

**Key Decision: NO**

Forward Plan  General Exception  Special Urgency  (Tick box)

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to present the findings from a February-March 2020 consultation about proposals to introduce 'Dual Use' parking zones in Stepping Hill, and recommend the proposals are not proceeded.

**Recommendation(s):**

Noting the overwhelming disagreement with both the scheme as proposed and the principles of a resident-paid permit scheme, it is recommended that the proposals are not taken forward.

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee** (if decision called in): Economy and Regeneration

**Background Papers** (if report for publication): There are none.

Contact person for accessing  
background papers and discussing the report

**Officer:** Eraina Smith  
Tel: 0161 474 4911

**'Urgent Business': NO**

**Certification** (if applicable)

This report should be considered as 'urgent business' and the decision exempted from 'call-in' for the following reason(s):

The written consent of Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ and the Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer/Borough Treasurer for the decision to be treated as 'urgent business' was obtained on \_\_\_\_\_ /will be obtained before the decision is implemented.

## **Stepping Hill – Proposed Permit Parking Zones**

### Report of the Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

##### Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to:
- present the findings from a February-March 2020 consultation about proposals to introduce 'Dual Use' parking zones in Stepping Hill; and
  - recommend the proposals are not proceeded.

##### Background

- 1.2 The Council is aware of residents' concerns about parking in the Stepping Hill area. There have been several public meetings over several years and the issue of non-residents parking in residential streets is recognised. The Council has worked with the hospital and residents in an attempt to address this issue.
- 1.3 Proposals were developed by the Council that aimed to make parking easier for residents, whilst recognising the need to allow some parking for non-residents in order that the hospital and local businesses can continue to be supported. The proposals included the introduction of 'Dual Use' parking zones.
- 1.4 A consultation was undertaken in February-March 2020 asking residents for their feedback on specific details of the proposals and the principles of a resident-paid permit scheme.
- 1.5 Notably resident parking schemes are currently under review by the Council, with new schemes not being progressed until the review is complete. However, it was agreed to continue with the development of this scheme given the discussions that had already taken place.

#### **2 PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 The Council proposed to introduce parking zones whereby residents would be able to park with permits and non-residents would be able to Pay & Display. The proposals are shown by drawing NM27/001 at Appendix A.
- A parking zone was proposed on the hospital side of the A6 Buxton Road which would be dual use for resident permit parking and Pay & Display (Zone 1). It would be operational between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday.
  - A parking zone was proposed on the opposite side of the A6 Buxton Road to the hospital which would be dual use for resident permit parking and Pay & Display, with the Pay & Display having a maximum stay of four hours (Zone 2). It would be operational between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday.
- 2.2 The zones were proposed in such a way to minimise the likelihood of displacement parking whereby the issue may be moved elsewhere. Zones were proposed

instead of street-by-street permits as this would provide more flexibility and opportunity for residents to park close to their property. Zonal schemes are a more efficient use of space as the overall space for residents parking is maximised.

- 2.3 Some properties on the perimeter of the proposed zones would be included in the scheme, including the A6 Buxton Road, as shown by the drawing.
- 2.4 The proposed zones provided an allowance of non-resident parking to protect the viability of local businesses and amenities, including the hospital, doctors and school.
- 2.5 It was proposed that the scheme be operational between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday to give maximum opportunity for resident/visitor parking during quieter periods. During the hours of operation, residents would need to display a permit to park in their zone and all non-residents would need to pay to park.
- 2.6 The Pay & Display facilities were proposed to be provided largely on a 'pay by phone' basis, with ticket machines provided on the A6 only.
- 2.7 Should the proposed scheme be progressed, households may be eligible to apply for up to two resident permits (for nominated vehicles registered to the address). Resident parking permits in the Borough are currently priced at £31 each per year, subject to review.
- 2.8 Blue badge holders would be able to park all day for free within the zones, unless specific regulations are developed when taking the scheme forward. The Council would seek to provide spaces for blue badge holders at appropriate locations, this would be considered further at the design stage if the scheme is progressed.
- 2.9 The proposals were such that a small number of existing free permit parking schemes within the proposed zones would become chargeable. Free schemes are not always enforceable and are being phased out by the Council.
- 2.10 Current free schemes in the area include:
  - Aber Avenue and Crown Mews;
  - Gladstone Street;
  - Poplar Grove; and
  - Store Street.

### **3 CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY**

#### Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The consultation has been undertaken with the purpose of informing the local community and stakeholders of the proposals and capturing their views.
- 3.2 Specifically, the aims were to:
  - inform the local community and stakeholders of the proposals;
  - ensure that those with an interest in or who may be affected by the proposals have an opportunity to provide their comments and as such input to the development of the scheme, should it be progressed; and
  - ensure that community engagement activities were fully accessible, informative and relevant to the participants.

3.3 The consultation was undertaken during a period when the proposals were at a formative stage and presented comprehensive information to allow the local community to provide intelligent considerations and an informed response.

#### Timescales, Audience and Support

3.4 The consultation was held over a four-week period between 12th February and 13th March 2020. This allowed adequate time for responses to be submitted using a variety of media. The consultation period was extended from 6th March in recognition of the receipt of letters being delayed.

3.5 The main consultation audience was residents and businesses in the local area.

3.6 A dedicated telephone helpline (0161 474 2299, 9am-5pm Monday-Friday) and email address ([SteppingHillCPZ@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:SteppingHillCPZ@stockport.gov.uk)) was active throughout the consultation period to respond to scheme/consultation queries and take associated comments.

#### Methods of Consultation

3.7 The following methods of consultation were applied:

- Letter and Response Form
  - The letter included at Appendix B was distributed to approximately 4,000 residential and business properties – 1,338 in Zone 1, 1,021 in Zone 2 and 1,621 on adjacent streets – alongside the drawing and a response form (with return envelope).
  - The response form sought feedback on whether the respondent agreed or disagreed with the scheme as proposed, specific details of the proposals, the principles of a resident-paid permit scheme and invited general comments.
- Web Page
  - A scheme page was set up online at [www.stockport.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/haveyoursay) with details of the proposals, the drawing, contact details of the project team and an online response form.
- Drop-In Events
  - Two drop-in events were held during the consultation period, primarily to provide residents and businesses the opportunity to discuss the proposals with the Council's project team and provide their comments.
  - The sessions were held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at St Saviour's Parish Church (2-4pm) and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Stepping Hill Hospital (5.30-8pm).
  - The venues and times were selected to enable as many people as possible to participate in the consultation.

#### Approach to Analysis

3.8 A comprehensive log of responses has been collated to record all comments. Online response forms were automatically entered into a database, these were supplemented by a manual data entry exercise for hard copy responses.

3.9 The completed response forms have been used to determine the overall levels of support reported. The overall response is presented, an exercise has also been

undertaken to remove duplicate responses from the same premises and when no address has been provided – these results are also presented for consideration.

- 3.10 Given the level of detail of some of the comments received, this report presents an overview of the feedback. The comments log will be used by the Council to enable consideration of the greater detail contained therein.

## 4 RESPONSE FORMS

### Volume and Source

- 4.1 Respondents were asked to provide their relationship to Zone 1 and/or Zone 2 – including resident, business or visitor.

- 4.2 The following quantum of response forms was received:

- Total: 2,051 (879 hard copy, 1,172 online)
- Duplicate and Not-Provided Addresses removed: 1,573
- Declared Interest in Zone 1: 754
- Declared Interest in Zone 2: 695

- 4.3 The responses to each question are summarised in the following paragraphs.

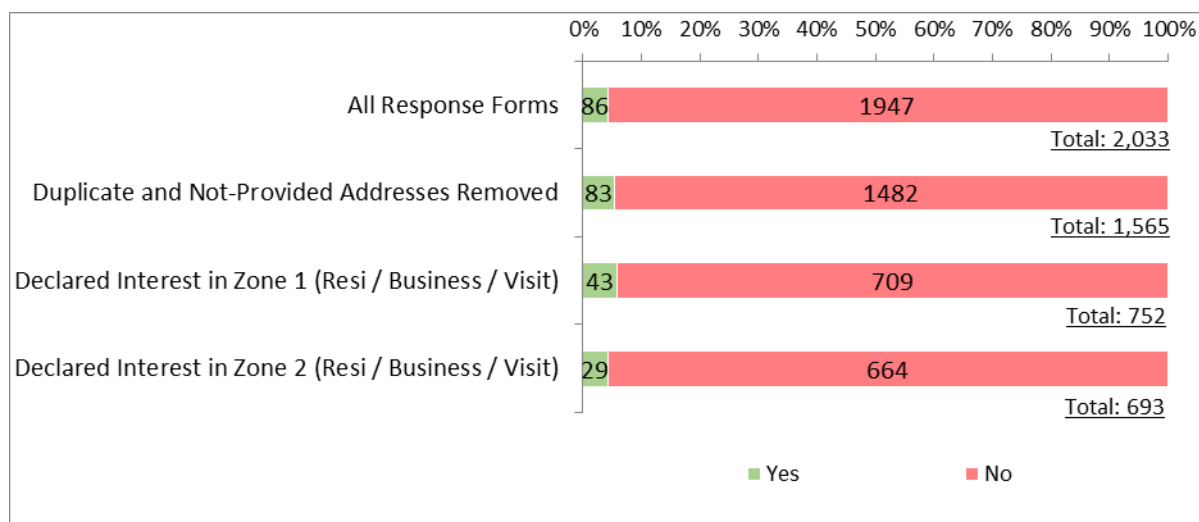
- 4.4 As noted and presented below, an exercise has been undertaken to remove duplicate responses from the same premises and when no address has been provided. However, comments made in these responses has been included.

### Level of Support for Scheme as Proposed

- 4.5 Respondents were asked if they agree with the scheme as proposed.

- 4.6 As shown by Figure 4.1, the strong majority of respondents did not agree with approximately 95% responding 'No'.

**Figure 4.1 – Do you agree with the scheme as proposed?**

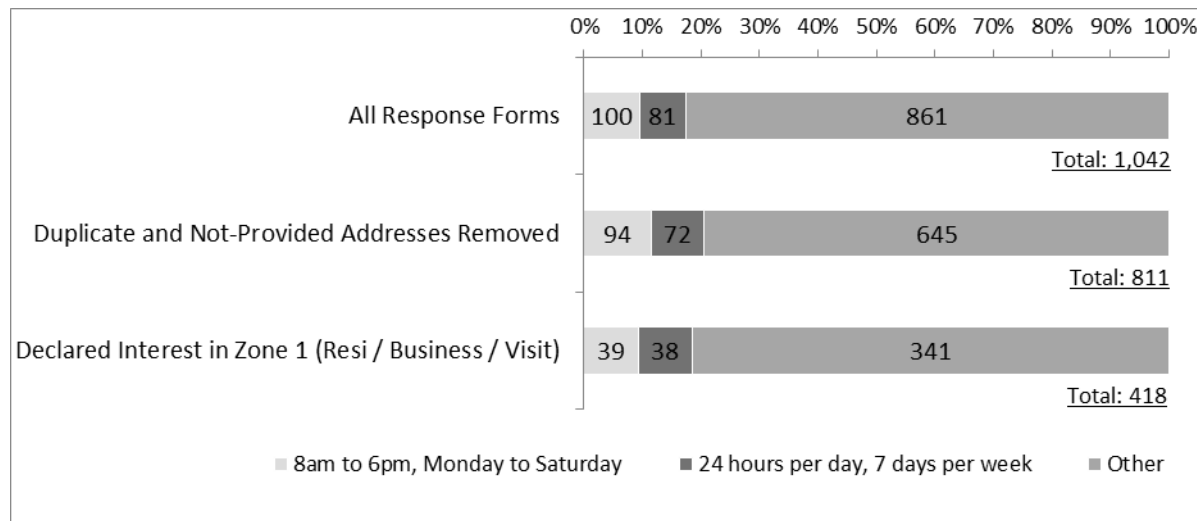


### Hours of Operation – Zone 1

- 4.7 Respondents were asked when they think the proposed scheme should be operational in Zone 1 (hospital side of the A6), with the options of '8am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday' and '24 hours per day, 7 days per week'. Respondents were also invited to suggest 'Other' hours of operation.

4.8 As shown by Figure 4.2, the strong majority of respondents that answered this question responded 'Other'. There was a slight favour towards '8am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday' over '24 hours per day, 7 days per week' by those who selected one of these options, although only by 51%-to-49% amongst those with a declared interest in Zone 1.

**Figure 4.2 – When do you think the proposed scheme should be operational (Zone 1)?**



4.9 Applicable comments and suggestions received in response to this question are summarised below:

<b>Comment / Suggestion</b>	<b>No. Responses</b>
Permits only	44
8am to 6pm, Monday – Friday	18
9am to 5pm, Monday – Friday	17
8am to 5pm, Monday – Friday	5
9am to 4pm, Monday – Friday	4
10am to 3pm, Monday – Friday	4
8am to 4pm, Monday – Friday	3
8am to 8pm, Monday – Friday	3
9am to 3.30pm, Monday – Friday	3
10am to 4pm, Monday – Friday	2
10am to 5pm, Monday – Friday	2
7am to 5pm, Monday – Friday	1
9am to 6pm, Monday – Friday	1
12noon to 4.30pm, Monday – Friday	1
8am to 7pm, Monday – Sunday	1

4.10 A significant number of respondents used this question to reiterate their general objection to the proposals.

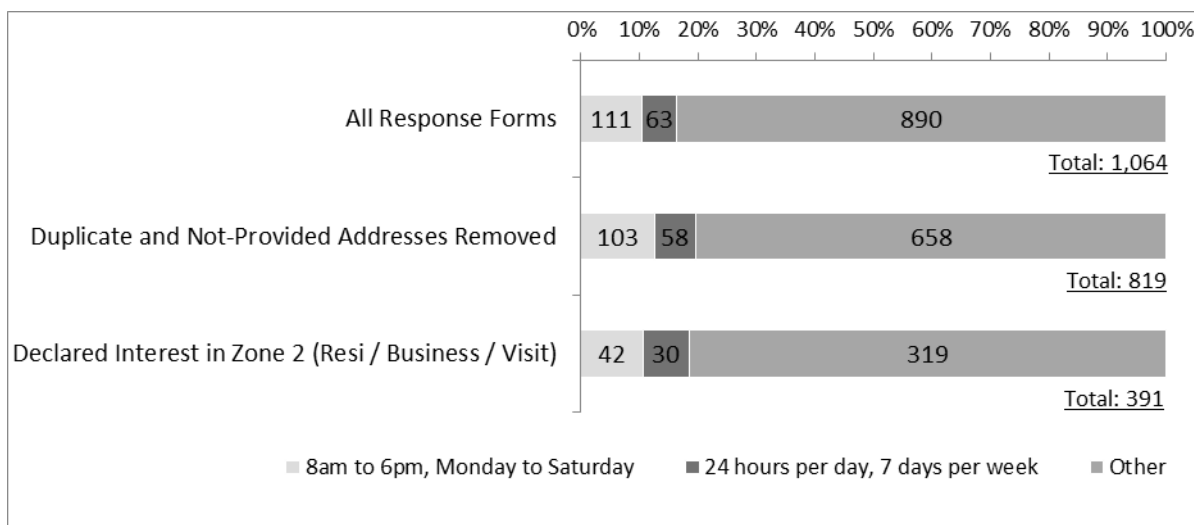
4.11 The high level of disagreement with the overall scheme may have affected the way respondents answered this question.

Hours of Operation – Zone 2

4.12 Respondents were also asked when they think the proposed scheme should be operational in Zone 2 (opposite side of the A6 from the hospital), with the same options of ‘8am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday’ and ‘24 hours per day, 7 days per week’. Again, respondents were invited to suggest ‘Other’ hours of operation.

4.13 As shown by Figure 4.3, the strong majority of respondents that answered this question again responded ‘Other’. As with Zone 1, there was a favour towards ‘8am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday’ over ‘24 hours per day, 7 days per week’ by those who selected one of these options – by 58%-to-42% amongst those with a declared interest in Zone 2.

**Figure 4.3 – When do you think the proposed scheme should be operational (Zone 2)?**



4.14 Applicable comments and suggestions received in response to this question are summarised below:

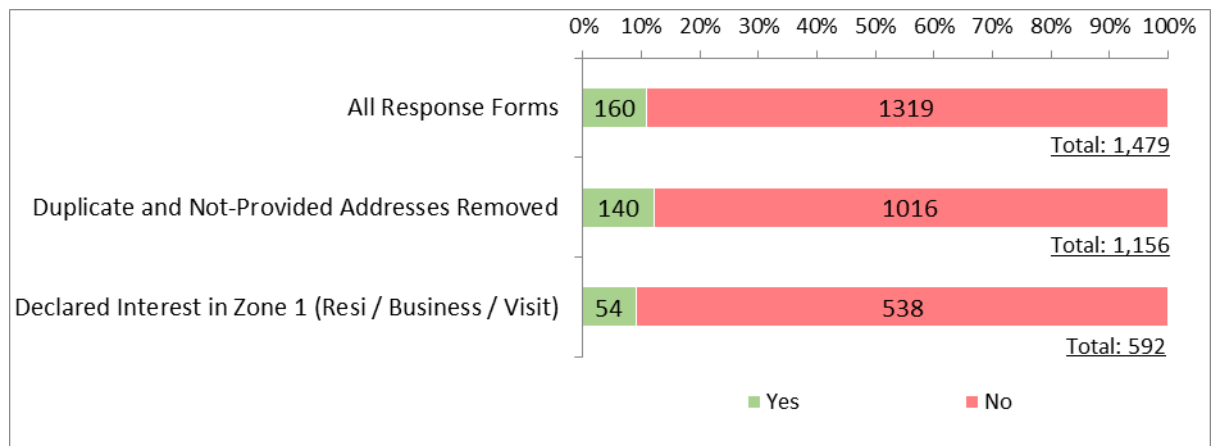
Comment / Suggestion	No. Responses
Permits only	41
8am to 6pm, Monday – Friday	20
9am to 5pm, Monday – Friday	13
8am to 5pm, Monday – Friday	7
8am to 4pm, Monday – Friday	4
9am to 4pm, Monday – Friday	4
10am to 4pm, Monday – Friday	4
8am to 8pm, Monday – Friday	3
10am to 5pm, Monday – Friday	3
9am to 6pm, Monday – Friday	1
10am to 3pm, Monday – Friday	1
12noon to 4.30pm, Monday – Friday	1

- 4.15 A significant number of respondents used this question to reiterate their general objection to the proposals.
- 4.16 The high level of disagreement with the overall scheme may have affected the way respondents answered this question.

Length of Stay – Zone 1

- 4.17 Respondents were asked if they agree with the proposal for the Pay & Display within Zone 1 (hospital side of the A6) having no maximum stay.
- 4.18 As shown by Figure 4.4, the strong majority of respondents that answered this question did not agree with approximately 90% responding ‘No – should have a maximum stay similar to Zone 2 proposals’.

**Figure 4.4 – Do you agree with the proposal for the Pay & Display within Zone 1 having no maximum stay?**

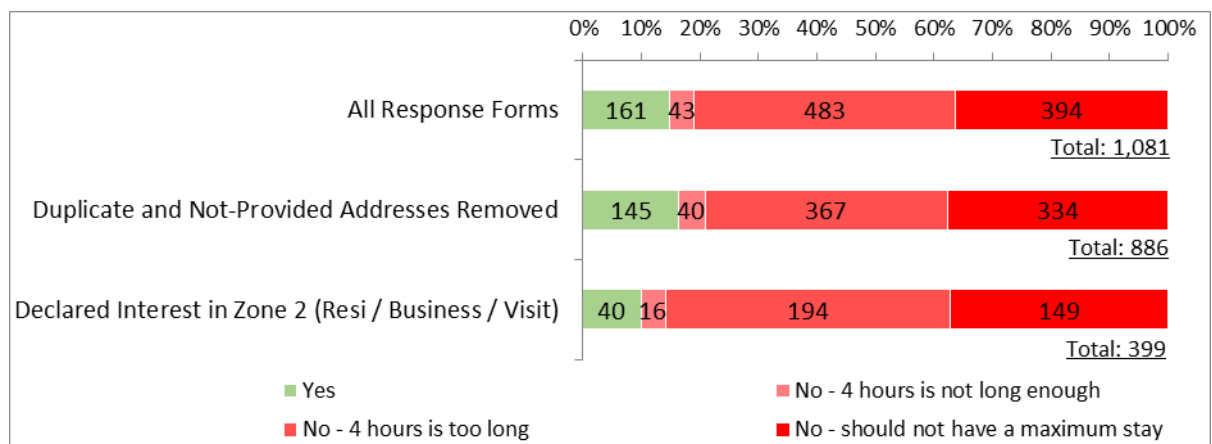


- 4.19 The high level of disagreement with the overall scheme may have affected the way respondents answered this question.

Length of Stay – Zone 2

- 4.20 Respondents were asked if they agree with the proposal for the Pay & Display within Zone 2 (opposite side of the A6) having a maximum stay of 4 hours.
- 4.21 As shown by Figure 4.5, the strong majority of respondents that answered this question did not (including approximately 90% amongst those with a declared interest in Zone 2), in particular because ‘4 hours is not long enough’ or ‘should not have a maximum stay’.

**Figure 4.5 – Do you agree with the proposal for the Pay & Display within Zone 2 having a maximum stay of 4 hours?**





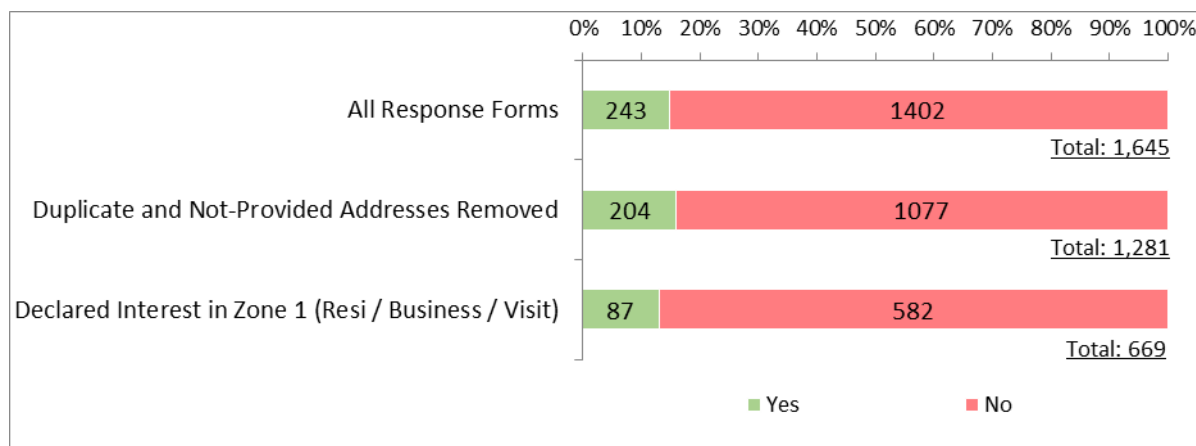
4.22 The high level of disagreement with the overall scheme may have affected the way respondents answered this question.

Area – Zone 1

4.23 Respondents were asked if they agree with the areas / streets proposed to be included in Zone 1 (hospital side of the A6).

4.24 As shown by Figure 4.6, the strong majority of respondents that answered this question did not agree with approximately 85% responding 'No'.

**Figure 4.6 – Do you agree with the areas / streets proposed to be included (Zone 1)?**



4.25 A significant number of respondents used this question to reiterate their general objection to the proposals.

4.26 Several comments also suggested action should be taken by the hospital to resolve the issue.

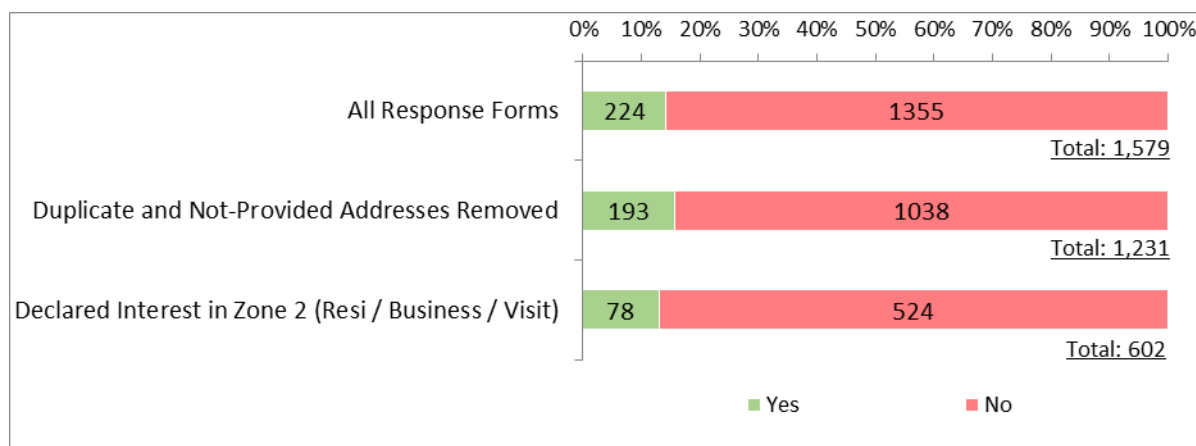
4.27 The high level of disagreement with the overall scheme may have affected the way respondents answered this question.

Area – Zone 2

4.28 Respondents were also asked if they agree with the areas / streets proposed to be included in Zone 2 (opposite side of the A6).

4.29 As shown by Figure 4.7, the strong majority of respondents that answered this question did not agree with approximately 85% again responding 'No'.

**Figure 4.7 – Do you agree with the areas / streets proposed to be included (Zone 2)?**



- 4.30 A significant number of respondents used this question to reiterate their general objection to the proposals.
- 4.31 Several comments also suggested action should be taken by the hospital to resolve the issue.
- 4.32 The high level of disagreement with the overall scheme may have affected the way respondents answered this question.

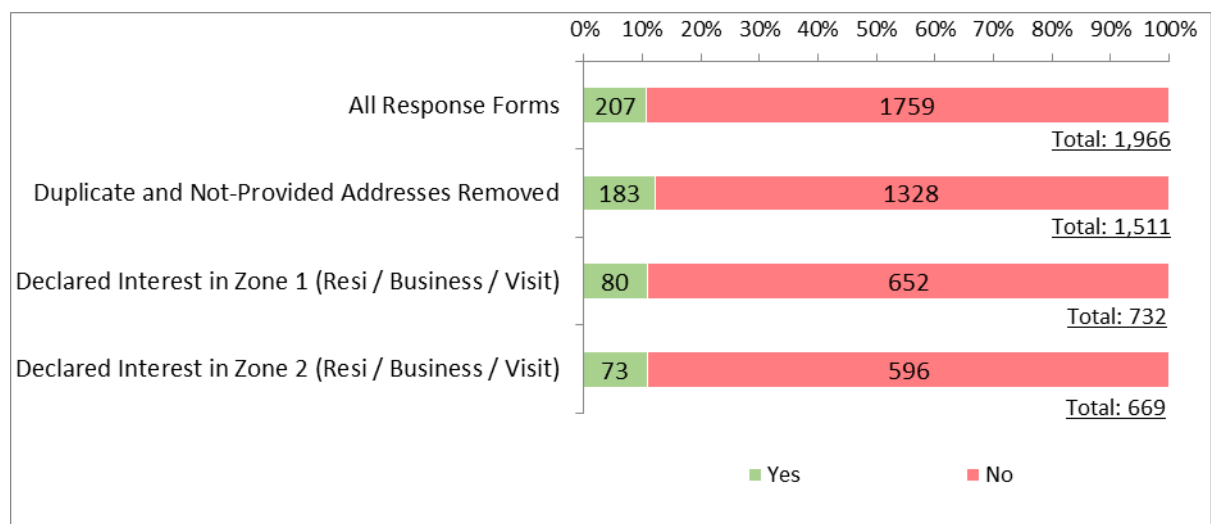
Further Comments

- 4.33 Respondents were invited to provide any further comments regarding the proposals.
- 4.34 The majority of respondents used this question to reiterate their general objection to the proposals.
- 4.35 Several comments were repeated suggesting action should be taken by the hospital to resolve the issue, and several comments suggested a Park & Ride.
- 4.36 Several comments also suggested parking should be for residents only, and residents should not have to pay to park.

Principle of Dual Use Zones

- 4.37 Respondents were asked, if their raised concerns could be addressed, they agree with the principle of introducing dual use zones for resident permit parking and Pay & Display.
- 4.38 As shown by Figure 4.8, the strong majority of respondents did not agree with approximately 90% responding 'No'.

**Figure 4.8 – If your raised concerns could be addressed, do you agree with the principle of introducing dual use zones for resident permit parking and Pay & Display?**



**5 DROP-IN EVENTS**

- 5.1 As stated, two drop-in events were held during the consultation period, primarily to provide residents and businesses the opportunity to discuss the proposals with the Council’s project team and provide their comments.
- 5.2 The sessions were held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at St Saviour's Parish Church (2-4pm) and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Stepping Hill Hospital (5.30-

8pm). The venues and times were selected to enable as many people as possible to participate in the consultation.

- 5.3 The sessions were attended by approximately 448 people (263 on Tuesday and 185 on Thursday). Notably, this is based on how many attendees signed in at each event; it is recognised that this may not include all those that were in attendance, in particular because of the surge of attendees at the start of the first event as referred below.
- 5.4 Officer attendance at the sessions was arranged based on the expected attendance, and additional support arranged for the second session following the first. All staff were briefed about the proposals in advance and involvement was instructed to be neutral with the purpose of discussing the scheme, not promoting it.
- 5.5 There was a surge of attendees at the start of the first event to the point of the room being full. A Council Officer addressed those present to reiterate the purpose of the session. It became apparent that many attendees were expecting a 'presentation' by Officers, seemingly incorrect information having been circulated by others.
- 5.6 The 'Stepping Hill Neighbourhood Parking Action Group' (SNAG) were represented at the sessions.
- 5.7 Comments at the sessions were invited by way of post-it notes on the drawings. Given the volume of responses, repletion of comments made within response forms and level of detail of some of the comments received, only a summary of the key comments is provided below. All comments have been logged to enable consideration of the greater detail contained therein.
  - General objection to the proposals.
  - Action should be taken by the hospital to resolve the issue, and/or alternatives should be considered such as a Park & Ride / additional parking (multi-storey).
  - Parking should be for residents only, residents / visitors etc. should not have to pay to park / devaluation of property, not enough permits.
  - The proposals turn the residential area surrounding the hospital into a car park / money-making scheme for the Council.
  - Incorrect indication of driveway accesses on drawings.
- 5.8 The drawings displayed were amended after the first session so as to make it clear that they were draft proposals for discussion and consultation purposes. Unfortunately when this text addition was made the colour of some of the lines depicting which zone certain streets were in was inadvertently changed. Once realised this was made clear to attendees.

## **6 OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 The consultation letter noted that the Council would welcome comments and suggested improvements or amendments to the proposals as part of this consultation, however, if it is not possible to amend the proposals to a position that could be supported it is not anticipated that alternative schemes will continue to be developed following discussions with various parties over several years.
- 6.2 With this in mind the feedback from the consultation has been carefully considered.

- 6.3 Noting the overwhelming disagreement with both the scheme as proposed and the principles of a resident-paid permit scheme, the Council recommend that the proposals are not taken forward.**
- 6.4 The Council will continue to work with the hospital and monitor residents' concerns in an attempt to address local issues.
- 6.5 Noting that free schemes are not always enforceable and are being phased out, the Council will consult with affected residents on existing free permit schemes in the area (see paragraph 2.10), specifically whether these are made chargeable or revoked in line with Council policy, at a time when such schemes are subject to maintenance or changes are requested.
- 6.6 If conclusion of the ongoing Council review into resident parking schemes results in the progression of new schemes, this would not affect the Officer recommendation as the review is unrelated to this scheme.

Anyone requiring further information should contact Alex Purrier on 0161 474 2299 or at [alex.purrier@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:alex.purrier@stockport.gov.uk).

**Appendix A – Proposals Drawing**

**Appendix B – Consultation Letter and Response Form**