



24 August 2022

Dear Head of Parking Design,

Reference: Rochester Way & Welling Way 22-08

I am writing in response to the consultation on the Royal Borough of Greenwich's plans to restrict parking on non-residential roads near Falconwood Station. I strongly oppose these plans which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on surrounding residential roads in Bexley.

The plans to introduce time limited parking restrictions and charges on Rochester Way and Welling Way to target commuters for the station and visitors to Oxleas Woods would very likely see parking displaced from the Greenwich side of Falconwood Station on to residential roads in Bexley, particularly Falconwood, Welling, East Wickham and Blackfen.

Whilst I am generally supportive of initiatives to encourage commuters to walk and cycle to stations, these proposals would have very little impact in this regard as rather than deferring to an alternative mode of transport, it is likely that drivers will park in the neighbouring residential roads, causing greater disruption to local residents, in comparison to parking on the roads with no housing. This is particularly the case as many of the commuters that use the roads near Falconwood Station, will continue to drive from Kent via the A2. So rather than targeting commuters, this policy will instead directly punish Bexley residents who will likely be forced to pay for permits to park outside their homes as a result of the displaced parking.

Lastly, I would like to express my strong concern over the limited way the plans and consultation have been advertised, with many local residents who will be directly impacted unlikely to be aware of the proposals. The Royal Borough of Greenwich has only published a small number of public notices on the road and letters have not been sent to local residents. I am also concerned that Greenwich Council and Labour Councillors have not outlined the reasoning for why these proposals are being brought forward. This raises the concern in the local community that these proposals are purely for money making purposes for Greenwich, with local residents in Bexley being the people that suffer as a consequence. Some people in the community have also questioned whether these proposals are linked to Greenwich Council's rejected and inappropriately designed Shepherd Leas development plans, which failed to provide adequate parking for the proposed 70 flats.

I would therefore be grateful if this letter could be taken as my submission of opposition to the consultation and that my strong concerns for the impact on surrounding roads and residents could be given appropriate consideration. If Greenwich Council does decide to push these plans through, I also request that Greenwich Council covers the expected costs of permits for the thousands of local residents in neighbouring Bexley roads for at least the next 10 years.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louie French'.

Louie French MP
Member of Parliament for Old Bexley and Sidcup