

Dear [...]

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham's consultation on the proposed changes to Controlled Parking Zone V and to ask for your urgent intervention before the consultation closes on 5 August. The Council is proposing to extend the current parking restrictions from Monday to Friday, 9.00am–5.00pm to Monday to Sunday, 8.30am–10.00pm, together with a two-hour maximum stay for visitor parking.

This is an enormous change that will affect thousands of residents, visitors, businesses, carers, volunteers, charities and places of worship across a significant part of the borough. It deserves thorough scrutiny and meaningful public consultation.

A consultation at the height of the summer holidays

My first concern is the consultation itself. The consultation has been launched during the peak summer holiday period and is due to close on 5 August, when many residents and community organisations are away. While I appreciate that the Council may have complied with the statutory minimum requirements for advertising proposed Traffic Management Orders, consultations should be conducted in a way that genuinely enables those most affected to participate. For a proposal that would fundamentally alter parking arrangements seven days a week across such a large area, the timing is unfortunate and risks excluding many voices from the process.

I respectfully ask that the consultation period be extended to allow proper public engagement.

The Council's own reasons do not appear to justify the proposal

The consultation identifies three principal concerns:

- Noise, congestion and nuisance caused by minicabs and delivery drivers using narrow residential streets during evenings and weekends.
- Commuter parking without maximum stay restrictions.
- Parking by Queens Park Rangers supporters on matchdays.

These are three very different issues involving different groups of motorists and occurring at different times. However, the Council's proposed solution is a blanket parking regime operating every day of the year from 8.30am until 10.00pm. The consultation does not explain why such extensive restrictions are necessary or why less restrictive alternatives have not been properly considered.

For example:

- If football supporters are the principal concern, why are matchday or event-day parking controls not being pursued?
- If commuter parking is one of the key issues, why are restrictions required until 10.00pm every evening and throughout Sundays, when commuter parking is unlikely to be a significant problem?
- If nuisance from minicabs and delivery vehicles is occurring in particular streets at particular times, why are targeted enforcement measures or location-specific restrictions not being considered?

The proposal appears to use one blanket solution for three separate issues without demonstrating why that approach is necessary or proportionate.

A disproportionate impact on St Andrew Bobola Parish

Of greatest concern is the impact on St Andrew Bobola Polish Parish on Leysfield Road.

This parish is not simply a local church. It is one of the largest and most significant centres of the Polish Catholic community in the United Kingdom and has served generations of families for decades. Every Sunday, hundreds of worshippers travel from across London and beyond to attend Mass, baptisms, weddings, funerals, catechism classes, community events and charitable activities. Many parishioners are elderly, disabled or travel with young children. Many have no practical alternative to travelling by car.

Sunday services and parish activities frequently last longer than two hours. Under the proposed restrictions, many visitors would either have to leave before services have concluded or risk receiving parking penalties. The consequence would be to discourage attendance at one of the borough's most important faith and community institutions.

It is difficult to see how such an outcome can be justified when the problems identified by the Council relate principally to commuter parking, delivery vehicles and football matchdays.

Have the wider impacts been properly considered?

Before introducing restrictions of this scale, I believe the Council should explain:

What evidence demonstrates that blanket restrictions are necessary throughout the entire week?

What consideration has been given to less restrictive alternatives?

Has a full Equality Impact Assessment been carried out, specifically considering the impact on faith communities, elderly people, disabled visitors and those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010?

What direct engagement has taken place with St Andrew Bobola Parish and other places of worship that will be significantly affected?

These questions deserve clear and transparent answers before any decision is made.

A better way forward

No one disputes that residents deserve protection from genuine parking problems. However, good public policy should be proportionate. Where the issues relate to football matchdays, commuter parking and nuisance parking by specific groups of drivers, the response should focus on those issues rather than imposing one of the borough's most restrictive parking regimes on every resident, visitor and community organisation every day of the year.

There are obvious alternatives that should be properly explored, including:

- Matchday parking controls.
- Event-day restrictions.
- Seasonal parking controls.
- Better enforcement against illegal parking and nuisance vehicles.
- Targeted restrictions on streets that experience the greatest pressure.

These approaches would address the problems identified by residents while avoiding unnecessary harm to the wider community.

My request

I respectfully ask that you:

- Request that the consultation period is extended to allow meaningful participation by all affected residents and community organisations.
- Seek publication of the evidence and parking surveys that underpin these proposals.
- Ensure that the Council publishes any Equality Impact Assessment undertaken for this scheme.
- Encourage the Council to engage directly with St Andrew Bobola Parish and other affected organisations before any decision is made.
- Ask the Council to reconsider whether targeted measures, rather than blanket seven-day restrictions, would provide a fairer and more proportionate solution.

This proposal is about far more than parking. It is about protecting the vitality of established communities, ensuring that places of worship remain accessible, supporting local businesses and charities, and maintaining public confidence that consultations are genuine exercises in listening rather than simply steps towards a predetermined outcome. I sincerely hope you will support residents and community organisations by calling for this consultation to be extended and for these proposals to be reconsidered before irreversible decisions are taken.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email and let me know what action you intend to take.

Yours faithfully,

[Name & Surname,
contact]