

Ms Debbie Warren  
Chief Executive  
Woolwich Town Hall,  
Wellington Street SE18 6PW

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

Dear Ms Warren,

**RE: Incorrect introduction of the Eltham Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) along Well Hall Road**

We write with regards to the recent introduction of a new CPZ along Well Hall Road outside the Tudor Parade shop and other adjacent areas. You will be aware that, as Councillors, we both opposed the introduction of the new CPZ over many years as it would damage business and the scheme had received no support at all from local residents or visitors to the shops.

In a [recent blog](#) on the Eltham Matters website, published on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March Spencer highlighted two major concerns which were that the Council:

- had not introduced 30 minute free parking in the area despite committing to do so and;
- was creating a digital divide where residents without access to online banking and mobile phones would not be able to park at all.

We have now been informed that, following our intervention, businesses have received a letter suspending the parking zone while some of the issues we raised would be dealt with. Indeed the letter offered the Council's apologies for the issues with the scheme. Given the problems with enforcing a CPZ where there were no machines available to issue tickets for the vast majority of bays and the signs did not accurately reflect 30 mins of free parking **can we assume you will be reimbursing any fines/payment which the Council has received since the signs were erected?**

We cannot stress enough how much damage this botched policy has caused the local shops. In conversation with the barbers we were informed there had been a dramatic drop in takings, the staff at the café had seen their shifts cut as the number of customers dropped and the off licence is struggling with the new parking permits so much he has to pay to park every single day. Quite simply, the scheme has done exactly what we said it would, which is punish all businesses in the area, not just the Tudor Barn and Progress Hall who put their heads above the parapet to point out the potential impact. There will be empty shops all along the parade if you continue with this policy.

As Chief Executive we would ask for your intervention to help abandon this policy which will reduce the standard of living of people in Eltham. If you must continue with the policy, **please can you send us the Traffic Management Order which has been introduced** as, while the recently received letter claims otherwise, it seems to us that the agreement to include 30 minutes of free parking has simply been ignored as it is not publicised and was not an option on for online payment. If the original traffic management order was incorrect then surely the whole of the changes in this area have to be abandoned once more?

When we lost our seats in May we committed not to intervene in local politics as we had not been elected to do so, however, as concerned local residents with some knowledge of the chaotic history of these parking restrictions we felt we had to take a stand. I do hope you will be able to help us as normal residents by answering our questions on these issues.

Yours sincerely,

Spencer Drury and Charlie Davis  
(Conservative Councillors for Eltham North Ward until 2022)