Meeting: EWR/Bedford Borough Council – Car Parking and Controlled Parking Zones

Held on: Thursday 12 March (09:00 – 11:00)

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

- Joanne Branson-Budd (JBB)
- Peter Simons (PS)
- Andrew Prigmore (AP

Representatives also from EWR Co

Meeting objectives: To present the car parking situation for Bedford, potential impacts on a western entrance and the options available

Meeting summary:

1. **Existing parking situation and policy:** EWR Co presented an overview on the current parking situation around Bedford Station and Bedford St Johns noting catchment areas including walking distances, parking spaces and wider car parks
2. **Car ownership and mode shares:** EWR Co presented a summary of mode share analysis for Bedford Station identifying car travel being the majority with walking being second. Bedford St Johns also identified car travel being second with walking being primary mode of travel.
3. **Potential impacts on a western station entrance:** EWR Co presented the existing CPZs along around Bedford Station and Bedford St Johns, noting potential impacts along the two zones
4. **Feedback from DUS sessions:** EWR Co presented a high-level summary of the Design Update Session (DUS) feedback from the Bedford events earlier in February 2026, including concern around already congested roads, cost of CPZ to residents and noise disruption.
5. **Example case studies:** EWR Co presented example studies of Cambridge, featuring car parking and permit charges, and Oxford with on-street parking close to Oxford Station, and CPZs.
6. **Options available:** EWR Co presented the options to consider: Leave as is, consider introduction of commuter bans, light touch CPZ/Parking Scheme and full CPZ to operate 5-7 days a week
7. **Pros and Cons:** EWR Co presented the pros and cons identified for each of the options consider
8. **Consultation process required:** EWR Co presented what consultation processes would be required for the options for consideration

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