



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Asa Caton
Leader of the Stockport Community Group
Edgeley Community Association Councillor

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Dear Mr Cullen and Cllr Baynham

Open letter: failure to modernise Stockport's parking permit system and refusal to engage with ward members on parking in SK3

We write on behalf of the Stockport Community Group and the Labour Councillors of Davenport & Cale Green Ward following the matters raised at the recent Full Council meeting, to which no adequate response has been received.

Stockport describes itself as a digital council. Yet residents applying for a parking permit are still required to print their own paper permits at home - a system that is administratively burdensome, vulnerable to forgery and misuse, and costly to enforce. Neighbouring authorities, including Manchester and Trafford, moved to fully digital, registration-based permit systems years ago, giving their residents greater flexibility and their enforcement teams the ability to verify a vehicle in seconds. There is no technical, financial or legal reason Stockport cannot do the same. The barrier is not capability. It is will.

We have raised this repeatedly over several years and been met with no meaningful engagement from Parking Services. More seriously, the Cabinet has declined to meet local ward members to discuss the acute parking pressures in the SK3 area, stating on the public record that the redevelopment of Edgeley Park will resolve these problems.

At the recent Full Council meeting, the Cabinet Member told the chamber that the administration is "not sat around waiting" - and then, in the same response, that it "does not want to spend public money when developers' money is coming." We invite the Cabinet Member to explain the difference between declining to act until a developer's money arrives and sitting around waiting, because residents in SK3 cannot see one. A regeneration scheme that is years from completion is not a parking policy. It is the absence of one, and the residents living with these pressures every day deserve better than to have their concerns deferred to it. Now that the administration governs with a majority, responsibility for this inaction rests with it alone.

We therefore ask for the following. First, that the Cabinet Member commits, within 21 days of the date of this letter, to a meeting with the ward members for Edgeley and neighbouring SK3 wards to discuss parking pressures in the area. Second, that officers provide, within the same period, a written assessment of the options and costs for transitioning Stockport to a digital parking permit system, including the timescales on which comparable authorities delivered theirs. Third, that a report on this transition be brought before the Communities and Transport Scrutiny Committee within this municipal year.

If we do not receive a substantive response within 21 days, we will pursue these matters through public questions to Cabinet, referral to scrutiny, and every other avenue open to us as elected members. This letter is being published openly because our residents are entitled to see both the question and the answer.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Asa Caton

Leader of the Stockport Community Group
Edgeley Community Association Councillor

Cllr Matt Wynne

Stockport Community Group
Edgeley Community Association Councillor

Cllr Jess Meller

Stockport Community Group
Edgeley Community Association Councillor

Cllr Paul Wright

Labour Councillor
On behalf of Labour Councillors
Davenport & Cale Green Ward