

Stockport Town Hall
Edward St
Stockport
SK1 3XE

Date: 21/07/26

Dear Cllrs Caton, Meller, Wynne and Wright,

Thank you for your open letter regarding parking arrangements in Edgeley, particularly the operation of the football ground permit scheme and the wider issue of parking pressures affecting local residents.

I want to begin by recognising that parking is a significant concern for many residents, businesses and community organisations across Edgeley. The area experiences a unique combination of pressures arising from its proximity to both the town centre and the railway station, together with the additional demands generated by match days at Edgeley Park. We fully appreciate the frustrations that residents can experience when parking demand exceeds the available capacity and we remain committed to working with ward members and local communities to identify practical and sustainable solutions.

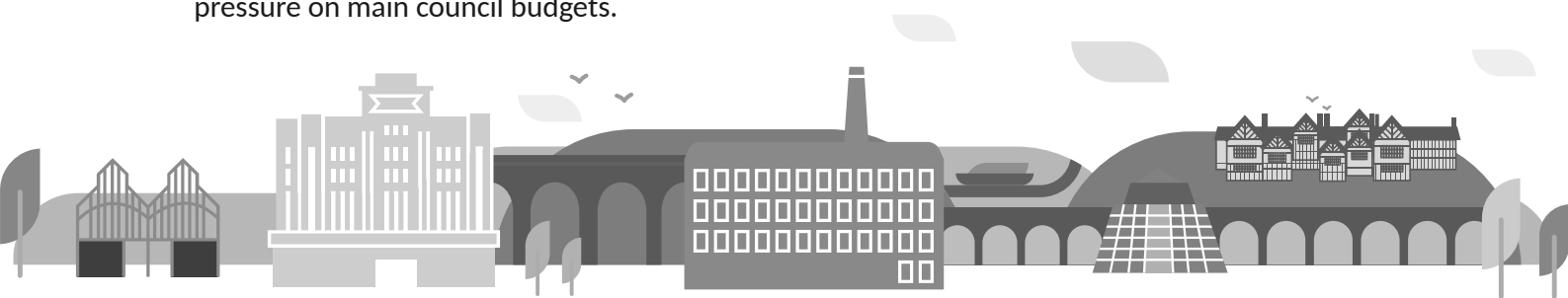
Review of the Football Ground Permit Scheme

The Council is ready to proceed with a review of the existing football ground permit parking arrangements and to consider whether any changes or extensions to the current scheme may be appropriate.

However, when planning permission was granted for the future expansion of Edgeley Park, a planning obligation was secured requiring Stockport County to make a financial contribution towards the review and implementation of parking measures associated with the development. Officers have previously advised members that this funding has not yet been triggered because the relevant stage of the development has not commenced. This position is reflected in previous officer briefings and responses regarding match day parking.

Given the current financial pressures facing local government, we believe it is important to avoid incurring costs that should properly be met through the planning obligation. If the council goes ahead without the planning obligation being triggered, we cannot then go back to Stockport County for the payment. We therefore intend to ask Stockport County whether they will pay for this work in advance of the planning obligation being triggered, otherwise we will have to wait until the developer contribution becomes available before commencing the formal review process.

That said, if local ward members consider the matter to be sufficiently urgent and wish to accelerate the work, officers would be happy to discuss whether delegated highway budgets could be used to finance the review in advance of the planning contribution being triggered. This would provide an opportunity to begin the work sooner whilst avoiding additional pressure on main council budgets.



Parking Pressures Associated with Town Centre Growth

We also recognise the concerns raised about the cumulative impact of growth in and around the town centre and the potential consequences for neighbouring communities such as Edgeley.

The Council is currently preparing to commission a comprehensive town centre parking and demand study. This work will consider future parking requirements arising from the significant investment and development taking place within the town centre, including the continued delivery of the MDC programme and other planned developments.

The purpose of the study will be to assess current and future parking demand, understand likely travel patterns and identify the implications for the wider area surrounding the town centre. Importantly, the study will specifically consider the relationship between town centre demand and surrounding residential neighbourhoods, including the potential impact on Edgeley.

We expect this work to be completed by next spring, and the findings will help inform future policy decisions, investment priorities and any potential changes to parking management arrangements across the area.

Digital Parking Permits

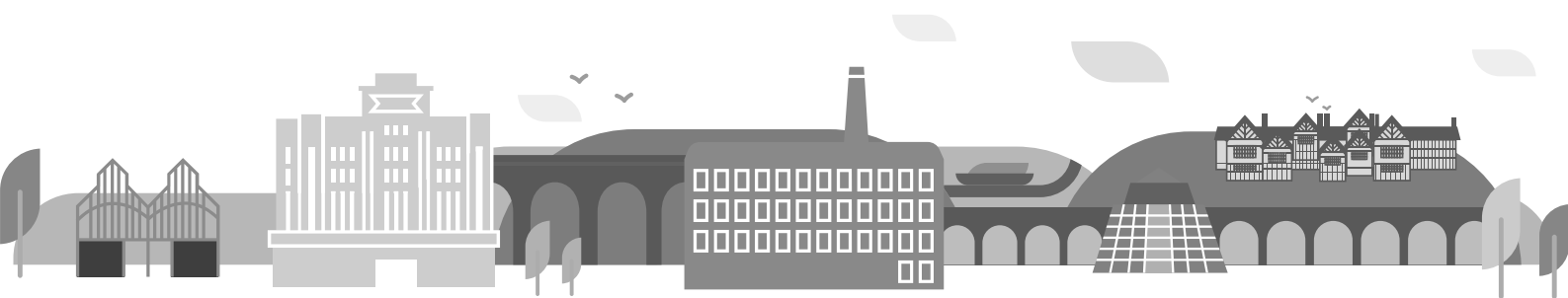
You also raise the issue of modernising permit administration through the introduction of digital permits.

Officers acknowledge that many authorities are moving towards virtual permit systems and that these can offer benefits for residents, businesses and enforcement teams through improved customer experience and more efficient administration. Internal discussions have previously identified that moving to virtual permits would require a significant investment in both technology and staff resources, although it would also bring long-term operational benefits.

The Council remains committed to modernising its parking services and has aspirations to digitise permit administration across the borough. However, it is important that this is undertaken as part of a planned borough-wide approach rather than through a piecemeal implementation.

For this reason, we will consider the introduction of digital permits when existing parking system contracts reach their renewal points and when there is sufficient organisational capacity and investment available to procure and implement a new system. Any future business case will need to demonstrate value for money, deliver service improvements and ensure compatibility with the Council's wider digital ambitions.

Conclusion





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The Council shares the objective of ensuring that parking arrangements in Edgeley are effective, proportionate and responsive to local needs. We are prepared to move forward with a review of the football ground permit scheme, but believe it is prudent to utilise the developer funding already secured for that purpose rather than place additional costs on the public purse. At the same time, we are undertaking wider strategic work to understand the future impact of town centre growth on surrounding communities and remain committed to longer-term modernisation of parking permit administration through digital solutions.

We look forward to continuing to engage constructively with local councillors, residents, businesses and Stockport County as this work progresses.

Kind regards,

Cllr Grace Baynham

Cabinet Member for Parks, Highways & Transport Services

