

EXTRACT FROM THE WAITROSE RESPONSE

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As I'm sure you are aware, there is increasing opposition to St Albans Council's proposed parking permit scheme for the Avenues area of Harpenden. To reflect this opposition as awareness and concerns have grown, a petition has been drafted to collect signatures from those who, among other objections:

- Would struggle to afford the permit fee
- Realise there is no realistic or economically viable alternative to permit over subscription
- Consider the scheme a threat for their business' ability to attract and retain staff, thus not only compromising their ability to trade, but also to provide people with employment as well as a service to locals.

A petition was drafted and 318 signatures were gathered from 20 retail and banking establishments. It is the experience of those who drafted the petition that from those who were approached, a unanimous opposition against the parking proposal was seen. Not all of the town's shops were approached in the short time signatures were gathered, and not all staff from all those approached were available at the time to sign. The petition's authors are prepared if necessary to gather signatures from the remaining shops not approached and would be confident of the same opinion represented by the signatures contained herein. It is our opinion however, and I think you will agree with us, that the petition as it stands provides a compelling and thorough representation of the opinion of those who work in Harpenden.

In light of this opposition, it is our respectful request that you withdraw the parking permit proposal for the avenues area of Harpenden, and allow the present situation to remain.

On behalf of those who have signed the petition, I ask for your response having received the enclosed. It would be gratefully appreciated if you would be able to inform us of the progress of the scheme by contacting me at the above. We are hopeful that the enclosed petition may have an influence on your decision.

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[Note: Despite the huge numbers of responses the validity of this petition is currently considered by the Council as 'suspect' as a valid response since the signatories to it did not provide their addresses. This time consuming exercise may have to be repeated]