

Salisbury Square Planning Application-Parking Considerations

Parking in Old Hatfield is a major problem which has only got worse over time caused particularly by the conversion of offices and shops into housing use.

The key issues to be considered are:-

1, PARKING PERMITS

Two years ago there were 34 more permits than parking spaces! Since that time more permits have been issued putting even greater pressure on parking for permit holders

2, SALISBURY SQUARE CAR PARK

The WSP transport statement enclosed in the application states "car parking will be provided to meet the needs of the development " whilst this is correct it does not take into account the effect in implementing the development.

3,ISSUES CAUSED BY THE DEVELOPMENT

There are currently 91 holders of so called "white permits" who are able to park in Salisbury Square at any time. There has been no attempt in the Application to analyse who they are and the effect of removing their ability to park in the Square.

A recent survey done the last week in January showed that on average 58 vehicles parked in the Square in the day and 18 at night. Where will these vehicles go or will they just seek parking permits causing even more pressure on the limited number of permits?

4,COMOUK

The inclusion of their paper supports the application and the move from individual private transport, which in the long term is a good idea, but the implied timescales are far too short. Concern must also be expressed at the claim that the applicant intends "to remove parking spaces over time and replace them with public real improvements". Clearly support is given to the objective but this can only be achieved by substantial public investment over a sustained period of time. When will this happen?

Perhaps WHBC should consider making all new planning applications free of private garages or parking spaces?

5,CAR CLUB

It is a shame that the Hatfield Strategic plan for 2030 does not support the role out of Car Clubs as without many locations the venture will not be attractive or viable.

6,HIVACAP