

PERIVALE LANE CPZ PROPOSAL (2026):

A CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND ARCHITECTURAL VANDALISM, WITH HUGE REPUTATIONAL RISKS FOR EALING COUNCIL AND THE BOROUGH

An Analysis by St Mary's Perivale (StM) of Objections Submitted



A recent (Feb 2026) concert at St Mary's Perivale



Lych Gate banner advertising our weekday concerts with wooden tower of the church in the background

Objections received

This document summarises the analysis we have undertaken of the **361** objections emailed to Ealing Council (trafficnotices@ealing.gov.uk) and copied to Dr Hugh Mather (concert organiser at St Mary's Perivale), under the January/February 2026 statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of a weekday day-long CPZ along Perivale Lane¹.

The consultation period opened in mid-January and ended on 11 February 2026. Most of the submissions we have seen were copied to Peter Mason (Leader of Ealing Council) as well as to relevant local councillors and to Ealing's three MPs. We expect that the Council will have also received other submissions that were not copied to us.

Objections were submitted by people from an impressive array of backgrounds, some of whom have been awarded national Honours. They include senior professionals in the music, theatre, media, legal, financial, medical, academic, religious, civil service, political, architectural, engineering, commercial and sporting worlds.

For the record, we note that **19** of the objections were lodged by officers of StM (Trustees, Executive Committee members and those in our Churchyard, Broadcasting, Publicity and Financial teams), all of whom will be directly and adversely affected if the CPZ is introduced.

We note too that **41** objections were lodged by musicians (several being Ealing residents) who have performed at StM and/or those who organise nationally recognised concerts elsewhere and engage closely with us, including the Royal College of Music, The Kensington & Chelsea Music Society and The Keyboard Charitable Trust. Two who submitted objections are particularly eminent - one an international music critic (who often attends and publishes reports of our concerts) and the other who plays at StM who has an esteemed national profile (having arranged music for the 2011 Royal wedding, played for the 2012 London Olympics Opening Ceremony, and composed music for both the 2023 Coronation and the 2024 Last Night of the Proms).

¹ In a very few instances there seemed to be multiple objections from the same person, albeit with slightly different wording. We have excluded all such duplicates from the tally here.

We have noted the distribution of addresses from where the 361 objections originated:

Ealing - 250

Other London boroughs² - 58

Other UK locations - 25

Overseas - 1 (Japan)³

Unspecified addresses - 27 (NB: from their wording, most are probably Ealing residents)

Although some of the submissions were short there were many longer, thoughtful and analytical ones. All of them presented a compelling case against the introduction of the complicated CPZ scheme proposed by Ealing Council for Perivale Lane⁴.

Principal Objections

Because of the remote location of the church, many in our audience need to drive (or be driven) to our concerts and park close to the church along the top end of Perivale Lane (i.e. in the layby immediately outside the Lych gate and along the quiet cul de sac between the church Lych gate and Ealing Golf Club).

While almost every submission highlighted the need for many concert attenders to arrive by car, 165 specifically mentioned that public transport is inadequate for that purpose and so is not a viable alternative. Crucially, 209 stressed that many in our audience need to drive (or be driven) and park close to the church because they are elderly, frail or have a limited mobility that does not yet entitle them to a Blue Badge. (Several writers declared their age to be 80 or older and a few are in their 90s). Three elderly ones mentioned their need to visit family graves.

96 stated that our concert series depends solely on audience/member donations and receives no grant or subsidy from Ealing Council. There is no other income to pay the musicians or to fund the upkeep of our medieval Grade I listed Church (the oldest building in Ealing, almost 900 years old) and its large historic graveyard.

All the objections emphasised the importance of the renowned classical and jazz concerts at StM (described by one as “the Wigmore of the West” and by another as “a thriving beacon for art and culture of the highest order”). 203 particularly emphasised the exceptional standard of the concerts - pointing out how they make a massive contribution to the cultural life of Ealing (“a rare cultural pearl” of “inestimable cultural value”), bringing much national and international prestige to the borough. Many applauded the fact that there is no entrance charge or ticketing.

Moreover, 85 stressed the vital role that our concerts play for the social life and mental well-being of so many in our predominantly older audience, especially for those who live alone, rarely go out and can no longer travel to central London concert halls. The afternoon timing eases their journeys and enhances their safety. StM concerts provide solace, joy and companionship. For some, our concerts are the highlight of their week.

² Addresses were given as: Balham, Barnes (2), Bayswater, Bow, Brentford, Brixton, Chiswick (5), Clapham, Finchley (2), Harrow (10), Highgate, Hounslow (3), Isleworth (2), Kensal Green (2), Kensington, Kew (2), Lambeth, Marylebone, Muswell Hill, Northolt, Ruislip (2), South Kensington (2), Staines, Twickenham (2), Uxbridge (6), Wapping, Wembley (2), Westminster and Wimbledon.

³ We did not advertise the CPZ proposal during the concert livestreams. Had we done so there would have been many more objections from our online (UK and overseas) viewers.

⁴ The proposal - detailed in a complicated and difficult to read Council drawing - envisages a potentially confusing mix of parking controls along the Lane: residential CPZ, shared residential and pay-by-phone zone, scooter/bike parking in the layby outside StM Lych gate, and double yellow lines elsewhere.

5 submissions mentioned that StM is also used as a performance venue by other Ealing music bodies - Ealing Music Festival, Ealing Youth Orchestra, Ealing Symphony Orchestra, Ealing Chamber Music, Ealing Flute/Wind Group and the West London Sinfonia.

At least 7 of the objections referenced Ealing Council's 'Cultural Manifesto', reminding forcefully how StM's concerts exemplify the aspirations and priorities of cultural excellence, access, participation, inclusivity and community well-being that are high profiled in the Manifesto⁵. Numerous submissions stated that the closure of StM concerts would amount to cultural and social vandalism.

129 objections cited the way StM concerts provide much-valued performing opportunities (and income) for the hundreds of gifted, internationally recognised musicians (whether younger at the start of their careers or of maturer age and experience), both those living in Ealing and outside our borough. Some mentioned how especially the younger musicians, no matter how talented, struggle to find remunerative work and that StM is therefore especially appreciated.

39 of the submissions highlighted the fact that the concert series is run entirely by unpaid volunteers. 78 specifically praised and thanked Dr Hugh Mather for his tireless role over the last 20 years as StM concert organiser, as a frequent performing musician and as Freeman of the Borough of Ealing.

As well as fears over the closure of our concerts, 133 of the objectors worried about the survival of the ancient church of St Mary's ("a priceless asset") if the concerts close because of the CPZ. Several referred to such an outcome as "cultural and architectural vandalism", destroying the "irreplaceable, treasured cultural gem of Ealing" that was rescued from ruin in the 1970s and repurposed to serve as today's flourishing and much-loved classical music venue - a building especially appreciated for its (almost 900 years) history, architecture, intimacy and perfect acoustics. One objector noted wryly: "It will be a terrible thing if Ealing Council finishes off where Henry VIII left off"!

12 objections raised similar fears about the large associated graveyard, in which several historic notables are buried. When the church was rescued in the 1970s "the graveyard was a tangled overgrown mess". Now, concert donations allow the churchyard to be properly cared for, and several objectors stated how much they appreciate it as a quiet place to walk, sit, enjoy nature and to reflect. Some still visit the graves of their relatives.

76 of the submissions mentioned that, uniquely among UK concert halls, all StM concerts are livestreamed in real time to the world, thereby giving Perivale and Ealing a national and international profile. With viewers in more than 70 countries across every continent except Antarctica, we have a loyal online worldwide audience which admires our music, musicians and ancient church. (Hugh Mather begins every concert with the words "Welcome to St Mary's Perivale" and ends each concert transmission with "Goodbye from West London").

Moreover, 20 of the submissions reminded that during the 2020 - 2021 Covid pandemic StM broadcast 154 concerts from an empty church, a technical and musical feat happily acknowledged by the Lockdown Star Award to StM from the prestigious UK Critics Circle.

18 submissions stated that some of our musicians need parking in the layby right outside the church so that they can bring their large heavy instruments with them - cellos, double bass, drum sets and occasionally an extra piano/keyboard. (We have also had a harp and a harpsichord).

⁵ One quoted these excerpts from the Manifesto: "Ealing ... has limited traditional cultural infrastructure such as arts centres and music venues ... We want to flip this by making sure art can happen everywhere in Ealing ... Creating and protecting affordable creative workspaces and arts venues ... Protect and let thrive heritage assets".

In a similar vein, 11 mentioned that parking outside the church is required by our gardeners who meet every Thursday to tend the churchyard. Frequently too, parking is needed for members of our Broadcasting team who install and service the sophisticated technical equipment, as well as occasionally by tradesmen and others undertaking essential repairs or decorations to the church.

A few objections suggested that Councillors were ill-informed or prejudiced against classical concerts; and 15 recommended that Council decision-makers should visit StM and attend at least one of our concerts to experience the value for themselves.

At least 18 of the submissions stated that the proposed CPZ arrangement is motivated by revenue-raising, money-grabbing objectives by Ealing Council rather than for any innate concern for residents or our concerts. And 9 cited the disastrous impact on commercial enterprises that the recently introduced parking restrictions are having along Pitshanger Lane.

24 people objected to those aspects of the proposed CPZ that will involve a charge or user fee for parking, noting particularly that such is unfair on pensioners (some of whom do not have mobile phones and/or cannot use the challenging parking App) and those on very low incomes, adding that such payments would inevitably reduce any donations to StM.

93 of the objections identified the uninhabited top end (cul de sac) of Perivale Lane as the logical place for StM concert attenders to continue to park, free and unrestricted during the afternoons. Since there are no residents along that stretch of the Lane the usual arguments for a CPZ do not apply. Indeed, 28 commended the present arrangement, asserting that the morning 2-hour yellow line restriction introduced there in 2019 (which StM contributed £1,200 for) continues to work well and should be retained.

10 objections observed that the houses and flats along Perivale Lane have for the most part their own off-road parking, so there is no compelling need for a CPZ at all. One commented: "We cannot allow any temporary inconvenience of a few householders to outweigh the enormous benefit to many and to the Borough that the concerts provide".

34 objections asserted that the Council's initial consultation of Perivale residents (December 2024) was flawed and consequently questioned the representativeness and legitimacy of the results. They all stated that StM was never consulted at that time and that its existence as an important community-serving property along Perivale Lane was not even acknowledged in the Council's report. In particular, several of the objections challenged the meaningfulness of the results as a valid basis for pursuing the area-wide CPZ, given that only 13 Perivale Lane residents then asked for it while 5 objected to a CPZ and 75 chose not to respond at all. The fact that only 14% of all Perivale Lane residents ("a vocal minority") wanted a CPZ is an unconvincing basis for Ealing Council to implement such a drastic measure. Many of those objectors stated that no convincing case has been demonstrated for a CPZ. [Comment: Had StM been consulted in 2024 we would most definitely have responded. We are particularly disappointed that since then the Council and presumably relevant local councillors have proceeded to draw up a detailed CPZ plan for Perivale Lane without alerting or involving us].

Some related concerns were also raised in the objections as worthy of a different approach - notably, the absence of any residents at the top end of the Lane (which is the only length of interest to StM) and the fact that vehicles are allegedly parking too close to residents' driveways in the bottom and middle sections of the Lane. The development of the new Westlinks block of flats has also complicated matters.

CPZ Variations Requested

Because of its dire impact on St Mary's concerts and the continuing survival of the medieval church and graveyard, all 361 objections opposed the introduction of the complicated CPZ as presently proposed by Ealing Council. One called it "An appallingly short-sighted decision". However, there were a range of suggestions as to how it could be taken forward.

At least 8 objections demanded that the Council abandon its CPZ plans and leave things as they are now. StM concerts are for a very short time, and only two or three times a week.

28 stated that the 2019 yellow line arrangements at the top (cul de sac) end of Perivale Lane work well for StM concert attenders and should be retained.

2 of the objections demanded that the Council undertake a full cultural heritage impact risk assessment, in consultation with StM, before deciding on any new CPZ.

24 asked that any new parking arrangements should be free of charge for (predominantly elderly) concert attenders and not involve the use of mobile phones and Apps.

7 suggested that Perivale Lane should adopt two different CPZ schemes, with an all-day one for the bottom end of the Lane (where football, nursery and school parking sometimes impinges on residents parking) and either the existing arrangements or a mornings-only CPZ at the open top (cul de sac) end for concert parking. Three such precedents on other Ealing streets were cited.

44 objections asked the Council to "reconsider", "rethink", "revise", "think creatively", "modify", "amend", "adjust", "adapt", "change", "make wiser decisions" and "show more flexibility" in its CPZ proposals in order to accommodate StM's concert concerns, but without making any specific suggestions.

However, the vast majority of objections favoured a "mornings-only" CPZ in order to cater for StM's afternoon concert attenders. Following the lead given by StM's itself, 157 of the objections asked for an 8am to 12noon CPZ. A small number (7) suggested that the mornings-only CPZ could extend up to 1pm or 1.30pm. [Comment: those later times will not work for our concerts since, especially in winter, we need two hours to warm up the church and for the organisers and musicians to set up the concert].

A further 29 objections asked simply for CPZ times that will allow StM's afternoon concerts to operate.

Only 3 objections indicated that, reluctantly, they could support some sort of Pay-by-Phone controlled bay arrangement.

Importantly: A handful of objections observed that the existing yellow lines along Perivale Lane are often obscured by leaves. Existing parking restrictions would be more effective in deterring visitors (whether blocking line-of-sight driveway exits or otherwise) or any longer-term parkers if the leaves were more frequently removed and if stricter Council enforcement was implemented. That would not then require an area-wide CPZ.

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St Mary's Perivale
Perivale Lane, Ealing
12 February (5pm) 2026