

THE CASE FOR A RESIDENT PARKING ZONE IN BRIDGWATER WESTOVER WARD

BACKGROUND

On Monday 11th June 2012 the new Civil Parking Enforcement came into being around Somerset. This meant transferring the responsibility for the enforcement of most on-street parking regulations from the Police to the Local Authority. The County Council, and its enforcement service provider NSL, began issuing penalty charge notices for motorists who broke the parking rules.

REACTION

The introduction of the new system caused frustration and concern amongst residents of the town centre-much of which has been re-populated in the last 10 years in accordance with SDC planning policies, as parking near to homes suddenly became near impossible and also aggravated the situation in streets around the town centre which naturally suffered displacement of traffic from town centre workers and residents seeking longer term parking.

SOLUTION

The solution proposed by residents and ward councillors, in consultation with District and County members and officers, was and is to consider a specific Westover Residents Parking Zone based broadly on the existing Taunton Deane Model. A report was presented to Somerset County Council as requested by SCC officers on October 3rd in order to make the case for consideration of the establishment of WESTOVER RESIDENT PARKING ZONES in defined streets in and around the centre of Bridgwater by petition from a majority of residents in the streets affected. As advised, we requested that this be immediately investigated and that the necessary orders and consultation requirements be enacted in the following streets

1 BLACKLANDS/ CAMDEN

(Households 42 signatories 28 potential spaces 40)

2 ST SAVIOURS AVENUE

(Households 16 signatories 9 potential spaces 11)

3 SILVER STREET /FRIARN STREET

(Households 85 signatories 42 potential spaces 28)

4 ST MARY STREET

(Households 37 signatories 36 potential spaces 30)

5 DAMPIET STREET/BLAKE STREET

(Households 13 signatories 11 potential parking spaces 10)

6 CASTLE STREET/KING'S SQUARE/BOND STREET /CHANDOS STREET/WEST QUAY

(Households 20 signatories 18 potential parking spaces 53)

RESPONSE

Absolutely nothing

.Cllr Brian Smedley (Westover ward)

THE SCHEME

*As no Residents Parking scheme has hitherto been implemented in Bridgwater it is suggested that **the Taunton Deane model** be adapted for use. The salient points are outlined below.*

ELIGIBILITY

Residents whose usual place of residence is at a postal address within a Residents' Parking Zone, as defined in the relevant Traffic Regulation Order, are eligible to apply.

Resident status can be proved with current Council Tax demands, rent books, tenancy agreements or fixed utility bills. Only one is required.

NUMBER OF PERMITS ALLOWED

Each household is entitled to a *maximum of two Residents' Permits*, subject to resident status being proved. A household means a house or self-contained flat (with its own bathroom and kitchen facilities).

Houses where facilities are shared still qualify but only for the basic number of permits, irrespective of how many people live there.

The entitlement of two permits is *reduced by one for each off-road parking space (excluding garages)* of a minimum size of 5m x 2.5m available to a household. Such a space does not need to be within the curtilage of the postal address.

VEHICLES PERMITTED

Vehicles that are allowed to park within the zone using Residents' Permits are *passenger vehicles, motor cycles and light goods vehicles (not exceeding 3.5 tonnes laden weight, 2.3m high and 5.3m long)*. Vehicles must be registered to the resident at the address within the zone. The Vehicle Registration Document is proof of this.

If the Vehicle Registration Document is not in your name you must provide a signed letter from the registered keeper confirming that you are the **sole user** of the vehicle.

If the vehicle is registered under a company name you must provide a letter on the company headed notepaper confirming that you are an employee and **sole user** of the vehicle.

If the vehicle is a leased car then, as well as the other documents, you will need to provide a letter from the leasing company confirming that the car is leased to your employer.

Residents with both a vehicle and *Blue Badge* registered to them at the address will be able to have the *first Residents' Permit at no cost*

COST

- The *first Resident's Permit* costs £35
 - The *second Residents' Permit* costs £50
 - If you have declared that you have an off-road space meeting the size criteria, an application for a Residents' permit will attract the second permit charge of £50.
 - A motorcycle permit costs £17.50
- The permit cost is *discounted for low emission vehicles* as follows:
- Vehicles falling within Vehicle Excise Duty Band A at the time of application – 100% discount
 - Vehicles falling within Vehicle Excise Band B at the time of application – 50% discount.
 - A discount is available only on a first permit application.

VISITORS PERMITS

Residents whose usual place of residence is at a postal address within a Residents Parking Zone, as defined in the relevant Traffic Regulation Order are eligible to apply for Visitors' Permits and Scratchcards.

Residents who do not own cars have the same Visitors' Permit and Scratchcard entitlements as those who do.

A household is also *entitled to buy one Visitor's Permit and a maximum of 100 Visitor Scratchcards per year.*

Visitors' Permits and Scratchcards can be used on any vehicle whose driver is visiting the premises. It is a contravention to use a Visitor's Permit or Scratchcard on any vehicle registered at the address of the applicant.

- *Visitors' Permits cost £20*

- Visitors' Scratchcards are sold in sheets of 5, with a minimum purchase of 2 sheets for £2. A maximum of 20 sheets can be bought in any one year.

ENFORCEMENT

A Residents' Permit is vehicle specific. It is issued with a self-adhesive plastic wallet and must be displayed inside the front windscreen of the vehicle at all times the vehicle is parked within the zone.

The permit must be clearly visible and readable from outside of the vehicle. Motorcycle Permits must be displayed in a prominent position on the front or near side. It is a contravention of the Traffic Regulation Order to fail to display a permit when it is required to do so.

A Visitor's Permit shows the first line of the address of the property to which it is registered. It is issued with a self-adhesive plastic wallet and must be displayed inside the front windscreen of the vehicle at all times the vehicle is parked within the zone during a visit. The permit must be clearly visible and readable from outside of the vehicle. It is a contravention of the Traffic Regulation Order to fail to display a permit when it is required to do so.

Visitors' Scratchcards are an alternative to Visitors' Permits. It must be displayed in the front windscreen of the vehicle at all times the vehicle is parked within the zone on the day of use. The day and date of use and the address to which the Scratchcard applies must be clearly visible and readable from outside of the vehicle. It is a contravention of the Traffic Regulation Order to fail to display a Scratchcard when it is required to do so.

RENEWALS

All permits have to be renewed annually. Permits expire on the date printed on them. You can apply to renew a permit up to one month prior to the expiry date. A reminder letter will be issued four weeks before the expiry date. **There is no period of grace between expiry and renewal.**

For renewals we only require proof of residence so long as the vehicle registration number remains the same. If you change your vehicle or move house you will have to return your permit and apply for a replacement

Scratchcards not used within twelve months of purchase can be carried forward.

As a Resident's Permit is vehicle specific you will have to return the permit and apply for a new one if you change your vehicle. There is no cost for this.

If your permit is lost stolen or damaged you will need to apply, with an explanatory letter, for a replacement permit. Where a permit is damaged or defaced you should return it with the application. There is a £5 administrative charge for the duplicate permit. If a lost or stolen permit is subsequently recovered it must be returned to the Council immediately.

If you move out of the zone for which the permits are issued you should return them to the Council.

If you move within the zone for which the permits are issued you must advise the Council of your old and new addresses and your permit numbers.