

Cheshire East Council

# Residents' Parking Schemes





## Introduction

Cheshire East Council is now able to offer permits for residents' parking schemes. Any scheme will always be introduced with full consultation of all the relevant people including residents and local businesses. The notes below give a guide to residents' parking schemes and provide answers to the most frequently asked questions.

## The purpose of residents' parking schemes

In many areas it is difficult for residents to park, due to long term parking by commuters, shoppers and visitors. The purpose of any scheme is to stop this and allow the spaces to be used mainly for the benefit of residents.

## How would a scheme operate?

- Parking bays will be marked and signed on-street as required.
- All spaces will be available for all permit holders within a zone.
- The total number of spaces will remain broadly the same but may be reduced in some cases.
- During the operating times and days, long term parking will only be allowed with a permit.
- Permits will only be available to residents (with a few exceptions e.g. some businesses).
- During the operating times and days, vehicles without permits can park to load or unload.
- Outside of the operating times and days anyone can park within the zone.

\* Note: - Schemes will generally operate between 08:00-18:00 Mon-Fri or Mon-Sat, although some schemes could be in operation 7 days a week depending on local needs and conditions.



## **Who would qualify for a permit?**

Residents who can prove that they live within the zone will be eligible to apply for permits. Permit eligibility will be reduced or removed if the resident has their own off road parking space(s) available. For example where a scheme offers two permits per household and one off road space is available then only one permit could be applied for. With two off road spaces no residents permits would be allowed. This would not, however, affect their rights to visitors permits.

## **How much will it cost me?**

Residents' permits are currently charged at £50 each per annum. This cost is calculated to cover the development, design, implementation and ongoing maintenance and enforcement of a scheme on a cost neutral basis.

## **Where can I park?**

Residents will be able to park in bays in an allocated zone. Individual parking spaces will not be allocated to individual permit holders or properties.

## **What is a zone?**

A number of streets will be grouped together to form a zone. This is because parking is not possible or restricted in certain streets and there is a need to balance demand within the zone. Affected residents must be allowed to use the streets nearby. There may be several zones within a town. A permit will only be valid for the zone for which it is issued.

## **Will I be guaranteed a parking space?**

No. However, in areas with a lot of commuter parking, you will have a much better chance of finding a space. Schemes will be designed to meet the needs of residents and will not be introduced where these needs cannot be reasonably met.



## **Why isn't the number of permits limited to the number of spaces?**

This would effectively require a lottery to decide which residents would be allowed to park. This could lead to the situation that some residents would not be able to park even though there were empty spaces. Not all residents cars are parked outside their homes all of the time. The scheme would be designed to meet average daily needs rather than maximum possible needs.

## **Why doesn't the scheme operate at night?**

The scheme is aimed at removing commuter parking during the day. Restrictions on residents and their visitors are not justified during this time.

## **Who else can park in the zone?**

Residents with permits can park all the time but limited waiting will also be available in some bays for others. This will allow for visitors, carers, workmen and loading and unloading. Close to town centres any waiting bays will be restricted to a short time (e.g. one hour), at a greater distance from the town centre longer waiting can be allowed (e.g. 2 hours).

## **What about long term visitors?**

All schemes will be designed to allow longer term visitors by the use of visitors scratch cards.



## **My vehicle is essential for the operation of my business - will I qualify for a permit? What about my customers?**

Businesses located within schemes will be considered for permits for essential vehicles to park on-street. There may also be an opportunity for passes for a limited number of customer parking spaces. This will depend on the individual scheme and the needs within that zone. Loading and unloading is allowed with or without a permit and customers will also have access to the limited waiting bays.

## **I depend on a carer, how will they be able to park?**

A carer could either use the short term parking or if they needed to stay longer, a carer's permit could be applied for. Carers' permits can be issued to those residents with a need for one who do not have a car or in addition to any residents permits they may qualify for.

## **I have a disabled badge how does the scheme affect me?**

Disabled badge holders will be permitted to park in either shared use bays or resident only bays within the zone, without time limitation.

## **What happens if I change vehicle or address?**

If you move into a different residents parking area, your permit can be exchanged. However if you move out of the area you must surrender the permit. You will receive a pro-rata refund less an administration fee. If you change your vehicle you must ensure that the permit is returned and re-issued to reflect the changes.





## How will a scheme be enforced?

Cheshire East Council's own Civil Enforcement Officers currently controlling parking restrictions will enforce the scheme and issue Penalty Charge Notices to all vehicles not displaying a valid permit or not following the rules of the scheme e.g. overstaying in the limited waiting bays.

## I have more questions - who can I speak to?

If you have further questions you can contact us as follows:

E-mail to [residents.parking@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:residents.parking@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Or write to:

**Cheshire East Council**

**Parking Services**

**F.A.O. of Residents Parking**

**Municipal Buildings**

**Earle Street**

**Crewe**

**CW12BJ**

Alternatively, if you feel a scheme may be appropriate in your area, you need to contact your local Ward Councillor who can make representations on your behalf.

More details can be found on the Council's web pages

[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk) or by contacting **0300 123 5020**