

## **Eastern Division**

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Being Dealt With By: Mr G Morgan

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Date: 6 June 2008

Dear

### **RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEMES**

You will recall that we wrote to you on 18 April about a proposed parking scheme for your area and that we held a local exhibition a short time later. A number of concerns were raised at the exhibitions and I think that it may be useful to address some of these.

### **SOME FACTS**

- **If you require a residents' permit, it will cost less than 77p per week.**
- **If you do not have a car you won't need a residents' permit. You can vote for the scheme and benefit from the improvements without cost.**
- **If you have a driveway, you will not require a permit to park in it.**
- **A residents' permit is issued free to a Blue Badge Holder who lives in the area and who owns a car.**
- **A visitor permit will allow parking for up to a full day and costs only 50p.**
- **Visitors can park for half an hour in mixed-use areas for as little as 20p by purchasing a Pay and Display ticket.**
- **The Pay and Display facility will allow a proposed maximum stay of up to 2 hours so commuters will not be able use this facility.**
- **Residents over 65 will be eligible for 50 visitor permits a quarter year.**
- **A scheme will remove a large number of parked cars from the streets.**
- **Parking on footways will be prevented as bays will be marked out on the road.**

The following questions and answers seek to clarify some other issues.

**1. Q. Why should I have to pay to park outside my door?**

A. You are not being asked to pay to park outside your door. Rather, you are being asked to contribute towards the cost of providing a scheme which will effectively stop others, who are mainly commuters, from parking all day in your area. Charges are normal for this type of scheme. Typically, experience from elsewhere would show that once schemes are introduced and the full benefits realised, the charge is no longer an issue.

**2. Q. What's in it for residents?**

A. All-day parking is removed from the streets, which are essentially returned to the residents. Residents can drive out of the area and be reasonably confident that they will be able to park on their return, health carers are able to make visits without having to drive round the block looking for a space or having to park illegally, and deliveries can be made without the street being blocked. Footways are not obstructed by cars.

**3. Q. Why has there been no consultation about the costs of permits?**

A. An extensive public consultation exercise was carried out in late 2006/early 2007. The outcome from this, together with comment received from the Regional Development Committee, was used to produce the final policy which was finalised in January 2008. Details of the consultation exercise and outcomes can be accessed on the Roads Service web site.

**4. Q. Why can't a space be reserved for me if I'm paying for it?**

A. Space on the public road cannot be reserved for any individual. However, your ability to park close to your home will be greatly increased with a scheme.

**5. Q. Will I have to pay to park in my driveway?**

A. No. Residents' Parking Schemes can only be implemented on public roads.

**6. Q. Why is a pay-and-display facility being proposed within these schemes?**

A. These time-limited facilities provide flexibility by accommodating all forms of short stay parking for visitors, carers etc. while still discouraging long stay commuter parking.

**7. Q. Why should I pay for my relatives to visit me?**

A. If your area is experiencing problems with all-day commuter parking, your relatives probably have great difficulty parking at the moment. Experience from elsewhere has shown that once a scheme is introduced, parking becomes much easier. There is a small cost for this but at 50p for up to 8 hours parking when using a visitors permit, or for half an hour for as little as 20p by purchasing a Pay and Display ticket, it is a small price to pay for the significant benefits that both you and your visitors may enjoy.

**8. Q. What charging concessions are offered by the policy?**

A. In your area, the cost of a resident's permit is reduced from £80 to £40 per year for as it lies within a Neighbour Renewal Area. Also, Blue Badge holding residents who own a car will be eligible for a permit free of charge and people over 65 will be entitled to 50 visitor's permits, which is double the standard allocation of 25 permits.

There is clearly some apprehension about these schemes, which is understandable, but I can assure you that schemes will not be introduced without local support. As the response rate to the questionnaire has been low, Roads Service has decided to extend the deadline for their return to 30 June 2008. If you have not already returned yours, I would urge you to do so by that date.

Yours sincerely

