

Radstock Town Council

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Town Clerk: D G Russell MILCM

Chair: Cllr Lesley Mansell BA Hons

Bath and NE Somerset Council
Council Connect

By Email

23rd January 2012

Dear Bath and NE Somerset Council

Blue Badge Increases

The Council were extremely concerned to learn that Bath and NE Somerset Council is considering making a charge for Blue Badges. This can only be seen as unfair and unjust as it comes at a time when many disabled people are facing the prospect of a 20% cut in disability benefits like the Disability Living Allowance.

While it is estimated that there are 1.3 million disabled people in the UK who are available for and want to work, only half of disabled people of working age are in work (50%), compared with 80% of non disabled people (Office for National Statistics 2009). Thus this charge becomes an immediate extra burden.

How can B&NES justify the levying of a charge on a section of the population, which is probably poorer than other parts of society and is faced with the need for an estimated 40% extra in income to survive (OPCS)?

The Equality Act 2010 says that disabled people should be treated more favorably.

Please send the Council copy of the Equality Impact Assessment of this proposal along with your reasons for making such a change.

Yours faithfully



Dominique Russell
Town Clerk