

Public Consultation: Hotel/Guest House/Holiday Let/B&B Parking Permit Proposal

1. Why are we consulting

We adopted a new Parking Strategy in February 2018 as a long term plan for managing parking across Bath & North East Somerset.

The strategy is part of a package of transport improvement plans which aim to help reduce the impact of traffic on local people, business and visitors and protect the historic fabric of Bath as a UNESCO World Heritage site. This is because we recognise that no single transport initiative on its own has the power to transform travel choices to more sustainable options to improve the air quality and reduce congestion in Bath for all.

You can find out more about the Parking Strategy <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/parkingstrategy>

The Parking Strategy commits the Council to delivering a review of available permit types:

- **PSA 03** - *The Council should undertake a review of the available permit types and remove those that do not comply with the objectives and policies of this strategy.*

The main objectives within the strategy that apply as part of these proposals within the review are:-

- **PSO 06** Where it is deemed safe, on street parking will be allocated using a balance approach to meet demands in accordance with the hierarchy of kerb space. Parking restrictions will be introduced or parking prevented altogether, in order to reduce traffic and to maintain free flow of the highway network
- **PSO 07** - Within the centre of Bath priority for on-street parking will be given to disabled users, then residents parking zones and then short stay parking (maximum 2 hours) at the expense of long stay parking
- **PSO 20** - Prices for long stay parking in Bath will be managed to discourage commuter trips, provide more space for short stay visitors and encourage greater use of public transport and Park and Ride facilities where available.
- **PSO 22** - On-street parking charges in Bath will be managed, and tariffs for greater than 2 hour stays reviewed, to prioritise the space for short stay visitors and residents.

We understand that on street parking in the centre of Bath is popular due to its convenience. As a historic Georgian city being relatively small in size with narrow roads, this means parking will always be limited.

This proposal aims to enable Hotel, Guest House, Holiday Let and B&B establishments that pay business rates and wish to offer parking to their guests to do so, whilst also ensuring that the provisions for guest parking support the Parking Strategy objectives and requirements for change shown above.

As part of the Councils move to digital services and self-serve, we will also be

introducing a new digital permit for 'Guest parking' to replace the outdated paper permits.

Season tickets and permits for reserved spaces in our car parks are not affected by these proposals.

This is a 6 week consultation on our proposal for these parking permits. Please read the following information and then complete the online questionnaire at xxx by xxhrs – xx/xx/2018.

We will be available to answer questions in person at the following drop in sessions at the Guildhall, Bath; xx9.30am – 2pm and xx 2.30pm – 7.00pm.

2. Current service these permits

There are 2 types of parking permit; Hotel/Guest House permit and Holiday Let permit, with over 450 currently in circulation, including 60% across the central and zone 1 locations.

Current permits:

- Are paper based
- Allow guests to park in designated on-street parking places in the relevant zone with no time restriction.
- The number of permits available varies depending on the number of rooms and the number of off street parking spaces available. The maximum allowed is 15, and vary from £80 to £160 each per annum.
- Each Holiday let property can purchase 1 parking permit at £100 per annum.
- Both permit types are for the sole use of guests only and must not be used by staff.
- Permit holders must not 'charge' guests more than a daily pro-rata rate equivalent to the purchase cost of the permit for its use.

The current level of charges is inconsistent with the £100 cost per annum for Resident Parking Permits (£160 for 2nd permits where permitted) and the current daily charge of £15 for long stay parking other visitors are required to pay when choosing to bring their car to Bath.

Permit holders recharging guests more than the allowed daily rate are in breach of the permit terms and conditions and permits may be cancelled at any time.

3. Replacing paper permits – A new digital service

We will be replacing paper permits with a new digital permit for guest parking. This is part of the councils move to digital services and self-serve and does not form part of the proposals for consultation.

Digital 'guest' permits will be managed through a new on line Permit on Demand (POD) service through MiPermit.

How will this work?

Staff will be able to manage 'Guest permit' parking stays quickly and flexibly, 24 hours a day by simply:-

1. Logging in using any internet connected device – this is optimised for mobile devices such as tablets or smartphones
2. Selecting the start date of the stay
3. Picking an empty permit
4. Entering a vehicle registration, -
5. Choosing the length of stay and confirming the booking

Benefits this will provide include:

- The ability to 'activate' parking stays quickly and flexibly, 24/7, giving greater control to business owners wanting to offer guest parking as part of their service where private parking may not be available.
- Works from a desktop computer, Tablet, smartphone or other internet enabled mobile device
- Efficient one time only online application process to set up a 'Guest permit' POD account, reducing administration and delay – No more renewals. Guests do not need to display paper permits eliminating the inconvenience and costs for obtaining replacements when not returned or lost.
- The opportunity to 'create parking stays for guests in advance at the time of booking.
- Prevent misuse of permits by staff – no permit cancellations for misuse.

The owner of a busy City Centre Hotel has been testing the POD and says " xxxxxx"

All existing paper permits will continue to remain valid until they expire, with all new applications and renewals from XXX being provided with a Guest Permit POD service.

4. Proposed changes to permit conditions of use

We recognise that establishments may wish to offer parking to their guests as part of their offer to visitors.

This proposal ensures the terms and conditions of use support the objectives of the parking strategy as set out in section 1 above.

1. We propose 'Guest permit' parking stays should in future only be valid for parking at Council owned long stay car parks and not 'on street' locations in support of the new hierarchy for allocating the limited on street parking available.

This frees up space on street for disabled people, residents and short term parking in support of local business at the expense of long stay parking; whilst ensuring alternative provision for Hotel, Guest House and Holiday Let guests still wishing to bring their cars into the centre of Bath.

The proposed council car park is Charlotte Street as the larger long stay car parks in Bath.

2. Charges

- a. We propose that permits are chargeable on a per stay basis rather than annually and that these will be equivalent to the daily rate in Council car parks (currently £15), valid for a 24 hour period (noon to noon) and multiples thereof

The charge is in line with the daily cost of long stay parking at Council owned car parks and ensures that all visitors to the centre of Bath who choose to bring their car into the city rather than make a more sustainable travel choice, are charged the same.

We value your feedback about our proposals which will be considered before final decisions are made. Thank you for taking part.

5. Consultation questions

The parking permit proposal aims to provide a more modern way for establishments to offer parking to their guests whilst also ensuring that future arrangements for guest parking support the new parking strategy objectives.

We're now asking whether you agree with our proposal and for your views. You'll find the full parking strategy online at www.bathnes.gov.uk/parkingstrategy .

1. Have you read the parking permit proposal document for Hotel, Guest House and Holiday Let guests?

Yes No

2. Do you agree that the proposals are in line with the adopted objectives and actions (as detailed) of the Parking Strategy? Yes No In part

3. In your view, have we missed anything?

Yes No

4. Comment box:

About You

The Council is committed to ensuring its services are accessible to everyone. The following questions help us to understand whether different groups of people have different views. This information can be regarded as highly personal and so 'prefer not to say' options have been included.

Responses will be stored securely and no published documents will present information that could be linked to an individual. The information will be used solely for the purpose of ensuring this consultation is representative and fair.

5. What is your postcode?

6. Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or individual

Organisation (please answer Q7) Individual (please go to Q8)

7. Please state the name of the organisation or business

Please go to question 10

8. Are you a resident of B&NES?

Yes No

9. Do you live in a controlled or residents' parking zone?

Yes No

If Yes, please state which zone number, letter or name

10. What was your age at your last birthday?

11. Do you have any dependent children?

Prefer not to say Yes No

12. Do you consider yourself to have a disability? (i.e. a long-term condition that limits your day-to-day activities)

Prefer not to say Yes No

13. How do you define your gender?

Prefer not to say Male Female

Something else (*please specify below*)

If you experience particular parking difficulties due to your personal circumstances e.g. a disability or caring responsibilities, please outline these in your comments box (Question 4)

FAQs – to be added

Won't daily charges result in hundreds of micro transactions on my bank account?

Establishments will be charged directly to a payment card by MiPermit on a weekly or monthly basis as appropriate.

This document about parking permits can be made available in different formats (e.g. in another language, as large print etc) from Parking Services - Telephone 01225 477133 or email Parking@bathnes.gov.uk.