

What will happen if I don't comply?

It is an offence under Section 137 and 148 of the Highways Act 1980 to wilfully obstruct the highway without lawful excuse. Sections 143 and 149 give the Highway Authority powers to remove any items which have been placed in the highway.

Our new guidelines aim to minimise the need to use these powers by defining acceptable conditions to ensure a safe thoroughfare for all our residents and visitors. Obstructions which do not comply with the guidelines will receive prompt enforcement action

Please note that any liability arising from an accident involving an A-board remains with the owner of the A board,

Find out more

Full details of the guidelines are published on our website or contact Council Connect 01225 39 40 41
Text SMS07797 806545
councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk
www.bathnes.gov.uk/???????



**NEW guidance for traders in
Bath and North East Somerset from April 2012**

If you need this leaflet in large print, Braille, audio format or your own language please contact us.

Details correct at time of going to press Nov 2011. These guidelines may be modified at any time by Bath and North East Somerset Council.
100% recycled paper

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Why do we need these guidelines?

Over the years the number and size of A-boards used by businesses on footpaths has increased. This means that pedestrians, particularly the visually impaired, disabled or those with pushchairs sometimes have difficulty getting around them. A-boards can also affect road safety and visibility if inappropriately used.

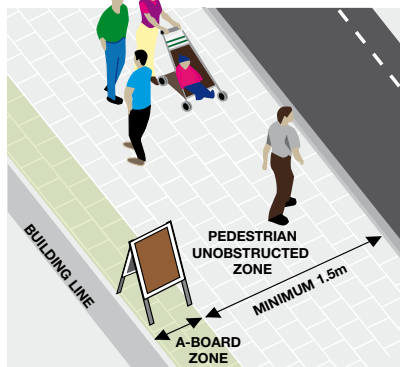
It is important that the number, size and position of these A-boards on the pavement are controlled so that they do not become unreasonable and cause difficulties to pedestrians. However, we

recognise that they are an important way for businesses, to communicate with shoppers and visitors.

We want to work with businesses and the community to achieve a sensible and practical solution for their use. By introducing these guidelines we expect to reduce the number of areas where currently a long line of A-boards makes the passage of pedestrians almost impossible at busy times.

This scheme has the support of the Bath BID and the Chamber of Commerce.

Considerate and correctly positioned A-Boards



No - Too many



No - Obstructive



What is an A-board?

A portable free standing advertising sign designed to be placed on the ground.

If you use these signs on public land or highways then please comply with these guidelines. These guidelines also apply to street traders.

What are the new guidelines?

From Monday 2 April 2012 if you wish to use an A-board to promote your business on public land you will need to make sure that you follow the guidelines below:

- Use only one board per property frontage.
- Place it against the frontage or property boundary.
- You must leave a minimum of 1.5m width of footway for pedestrians if this is not possible then you cannot use an A-board here.
- It must be no bigger than 660mm wide, 1250mm high.
- It must be freestanding and not chained or tied to street furniture.
- It must be stable and not weighed down by sandbags.
- It must not have any sharp edges, and swinging or rotating boards are prohibited.
- It must not carry an offensive or political message
- It must not obstruct visibility at junctions.
- It must be removed from the street when the property is closed or street cleansing works are being undertaken.
- It must be covered by the owner's public liability insurance.

How will these new guidelines be introduced?

We know that some businesses have A-boards that won't meet these guidelines so we want to give you time to change them.

Early in 2012 we will visit businesses in the centre of Bath, followed by other areas where there may be issues of safety, to deliver a letter and this leaflet, and to offer help and advice if you have any concerns.

After 2 April 2012 the new guidelines will be enforced. This means we will visit any businesses whose A-board doesn't meet the guidelines to explain why and ask you to remove or reposition your A-board as appropriate. If you do not comply with this request, we will remove your board and you will be charged a fee of £50 to collect it.

Not sure if your A-board meets the guidelines?

Just contact **Council Connect** **01225 39 40 41** and we will arrange a time to visit you to discuss.

“Concerns about the hazards created by A-boards are regularly reported to us by disabled people. We strongly support the Council's action in addressing this issue.”

Will Bee,
Development Worker
at Equality B&NES.

