**Public consultation on proposed changes to on-street parking**

22 July 2019 to 22 September 2019

**About this consultation**

Warwickshire County Council Parking Management is carrying out a consultation on proposed changes to on-street parking. This consultation covers the cost of residents’ permits and how permitting will be managed in the future.

Unfortunately, the cost of residents permits is having to rise. The residents’ permit schemes are part of the way in which we ensure that there are suitable and adequate parking facilities on the highway for people near their homes but there is an unavoidable cost to administering and enforcing such schemes. However, we do not plan to recover more income than it actually costs to run resident’s parking schemes. We want to involve the public in the decision-making process around managing parking on-street and provide as much information as we can.

We are asking for feedback on the costs of residents permits, new packages for buying visitor permits and the use of a proposed new online digital permitting system.

Anyone who is interested can respond to this consultation including but not limited to the general public, residents and permit holders, business and community representatives and other local authorities.

We aim to implement the changes to on-street parking management from 6 April 2020.The consultation is taking place now to allow enough time to consider responses before the changes are due to take place in April 2020.

**What we are consulting about**

1. **Residents permit charges**

Residents permit schemes have been introduced, in line with our parking policy, in parts of Warwickshire where residents struggle to park close to their homes as a result of a lack of off-street parking together with demand from other sources such as businesses, schools, hospitals and shopping locations.

Successful residents’ schemes rely on administration of the scheme and appropriate levels of enforcement. This comes at a cost to the Council. Analysis of the financial impact on the Council of running residents permit schemes shows a cost of close to £80 per permit. These costs include design and implementation of parking schemes, the legal process of amending traffic regulation orders, signing and lining, on-street enforcement through our service provider NSL and back office support from both NSL and at Warwickshire County Council.

For many years, Warwickshire County Council has kept its permit charges at a level which has not reflected the cost of running the permit scheme. These are currently £25 per annual permit. We now have an unavoidable need to raise our charges to more closely meet our costs.

We have commissioned a permit benchmarking report which is available to read on our consultation webpage: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask.

We are offering two options.

* Option One is a flat rate of £80 per resident’s permit up to a maximum of three permits per household.
* Option Two offers a tiered permit cost again up to a maximum of three permits per household.

Option One

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1st permit | 2nd permit | 3rd permit |
| £80 | £80 | £80 |

Option Two

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1st permit | 2nd permit | 3rd permit |
| £35 | £55 | £80 |

**2. A change from paper-based to virtual permitting**

In line with the government’s drive towards online systems, such as vehicle excise duty (car tax) and television licensing, we are moving towards virtual permitting which will be managed online.

Our existing paper-based permit management system is becoming obsolete with technical support from its suppliers being reduced from October onwards. We must now move to a digital, online system.

We are working with our current service provider, NSL, to provide a new system called PermitSmarti. The new system will require you to create a user account online and this will allow you to apply for, pay for and renew permits and upload any supporting documents as necessary.

You will no longer receive a paper permit to put in your car. Our Civil Enforcement Officers who patrol the streets have handheld devices which can check whether a car has a permit or not.

For the small number of people who do not have internet access, it will be possible to apply via post or phone and an account will be created for you.

We have carried out an Equality Impact Assessment on the proposals to introduce online virtual permitting and this is available to read here:

**3. Visitors permit changes**

There is evidence that visitor’s permits are being sold to provide long term all-day parking on-street. This is not the intention of visitors permits and unfairly takes up kerbside space. The new system will allow residents to register their visitors’ vehicles for the period of time that they wish to park. There will be a limit on the amount of overall time that visitors may park to prevent the kind of all year round all day parking described above.

We propose to offer two packages of visitors parking via the new online virtual permitting system. You will be able to choose from either package one or package two.

1. The first package will cost £25, the same as the current visitor’s permit price. It will provide 600 hours of parking for use throughout the year, which equates to 25 days, if each session were for a twenty-four hour period.
2. The second package costs £50 and will provide 1200 hours of visitors parking for use throughout the year. This is equivalent to 50 full days parking.

We need to limit the amount of visitors parking to tackle the misuse without unfairly penalising genuine visitors. This approach addresses these issues.

Residents will need to register their visitors’ vehicles before they park on street and when they intend to park for longer than the current on-street waiting restrictions in their road. The system will provide a countdown of available hours remaining.

Example: two hours waiting restriction on-street. Visitor parks from 10am to 4pm. Resident will need to log their visitor’s registration details for parking from 12noon to 4pm, costing four hours of their annual allowance.

We believe this caters for genuine visitors and, at the same time, prevents the kind of misuse which is frequently highlighted to us. This will free up valuable kerbside space for local residents.

It is important to note that Home Carers visits will not be affected by these changes as they will continue to qualify for permits in their own right.

You may wish to read our frequently asked questions document which provides more information.

**4. Guesthouse visitors permits**

The new online virtual permitting system will require changes to how guesthouse owners manage their visitors’ parking.

Scratchcards will no longer be provided.

Guesthouse owners will create their own account and register their visitors’ vehicles before they arrive, with one vehicle per room booking. Twenty-four hours parking will cost £5 per vehicle. This is a slight increase from the £3 charge at present but is the first increase in over fifteen years.

There is no limit to the number of guesthouse visitors’ parking sessions during the course of one year.

Again, the new system will be designed to be flexible to cater for busy guesthouses and those which receive fewer visitors.

The new system will continue to allow visitors to park on-street at or close to their chosen guesthouse.

**5. Stratford Park and Ride permits**

The changes will apply only to quarterly and annual season ticket permits. Daily and monthly park and ride tickets will be unaffected.

When you buy your annual or quarterly permit, you will be required to log your vehicle details with our online permitting system. You will receive an email via mobile phone which will allow you to board the bus into Stratford.

We intend to continue to make provision for employers who provide annual and quarterly season tickets for their employees.

**Supporting Information**

The following information has been supplied to enable you to consider your response:

* Frequently asked questions
* Benchmarking report
* Equality impact assessment

**How to take part**

We welcome your comments on any of the proposed changes to the parking management system. You can feed back in the following ways:

* Complete the survey online using your computer, a tablet or an internet enabled mobile phone by visiting [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask).
* Request a paper copy of the survey by telephone (01926 410410) or email ([pmc@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:pmc@warwickshire.gov.uk)) and return it to the postal address below. You can also request an alternative format or language this way.
* Feed back to us directly:
* By emailing [pmc@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:pmc@warwickshire.gov.uk)
* By writing to us at:

Parking Permit Consultation

Parking Management Team

Warwickshire County Council

PO Box 43

Shire Hall

Warwick

CV34 4SX

**Closing date**

The consultation will close on 22 September 2019.

**What will happen after the consultation**

Once the consultation has closed, we will collate and analyse the responses and these will be used to assess the suitability of the proposed changes to the permit management system. Our recommendations will be considered by Warwickshire County Council Cabinet.

Information will be posted on the Council’s website [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parking](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parking) and on [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask).

We aim to implement the changes to on-street parking management from 6 April 2020.

**Privacy statement**

Survey questions are anonymous. If you complete this survey online the IP address used to submit answers will be automatically collected but will not be used in any analysis of responses. Questions for the purpose of equalities monitoring are included in the survey. You do not have to give us this information.

Following the end of the consultation we shall publish the results and this may include quotes of comments which will be anonymous.

Information you provide in any additional correspondence to the online survey, including personal information, may be disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and/or Environmental Information Regulations. If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential and not shared, including your contact details, please tell us why, but be aware that, under the legislation, we cannot always guarantee confidentiality.

All data will be treated in accordance with Warwickshire County Council’s data privacy policy.

If you would like further information, visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy) or contact our Customer Service Centre on 01926 410410.