Resident’s Parking Fact Sheet

Introduction

Northamptonshire County Council and Kettering Borough Council are considering the introduction of parking controls in an attempt to resolve reported parking problems in your area.

The options under consideration include the introduction of new residents’ permit parking zones or in some areas the extension of existing schemes.

This fact sheet is designed to answer many of your questions about residents’ permit parking zones.

Should you need any further information, feel free to make contact with us using any of the below methods:

- **Telephone:** please call Jo Fletcher on 01536 410333 (Wednesday-Friday)
- **Email:** residentsparking@kettering.gov.uk
- **Website:** www.kettering.gov.uk/residentsparking

Residents’ Parking Permit Schemes

Residents parking permit schemes are designed to offer the opportunity for residents to have parking priority over non-residents. Currently, residents within a parking zone are eligible to apply for up to three permits. Each permit costs £35 and allows residents to park their vehicle within the zone, whilst there is no guarantee that there will always be spaces available to residents, the scheme is designed to optimise the availability of spaces for residents.

Visitor parking permits (or scratch cards) are available for use by visitors (including trades persons) to residences within the parking zones. Visiting medical staff may also apply for either a Carers permit or a scratch card. Provided that you live within the zone, you do not have to purchase a £35 permit to use the scratch cards.

Times of Operation

Most existing residents parking schemes within Kettering operate on a 24 hour, seven days per week basis, whilst many in the rest of Northamptonshire are only operational during the daytime.

As part of this consultation, we are inviting responses on the operational hours of any proposed schemes. This is essential to ensure that we enforce each resident zone in accordance with local needs and demand.
Surveys of the current parking arrangements are being undertaken. The information gathered, together with the responses to the enclosed questionnaire, will enable the detail of potential schemes for individual zones to be designed to more accurately meet the needs of the zones.

The Council will not want to introduce a scheme unless at least 60% of respondent households support the introduction of a scheme in a given area.

**Layout of Scheme**

The enclosed plan indicates the maximum extent of a possible residents’ parking zone. A final decision on the coverage of each zone will depend on the majority of residents support.

Within any finally agreed zone, it is probable (with a few exceptions), that most of the currently available parking spaces would be converted into permit holder parking spaces.

Some short stay waiting bays, available for use by non-permit holders, may be provided in each zone if the scheme design can allow for this. It is possible that some short lengths of parking prohibition (double yellow lines) will be introduced around junctions for highway safety reasons.

At this stage, the Council is seeking to find out what problems you experience, if any, and to establish your views on the principle of the introduction of a residents parking scheme in your area.

**What might it mean to you?**

Provided you display a valid permit issued by the Council, you would be able to park within the designated zone without a time restriction. It would not entitle you to park in any particular location in the street; for example you cannot lay claim to park outside your front door at all times.

**The permit would not allow you to park on yellow lines during their times of operation or commit obstruction of the Highway.**
Permitted Vehicles

Because of the general scarcity of on street parking spaces, the issue of parking permits would be restricted to the following vehicle criteria:

*Any vehicle whose maximum gross weight does not exceed 2.25 tonnes, whose height does not exceed 2.25 metres, whose length does not exceed 5.3 metres and which is:*

   a. A passenger vehicle for not more than twelve passengers and not drawing a trailer;
   b. A light goods vehicle
   c. A motor cycle

*Unattached caravans, trailers, boats etc would not be eligible for a permit and must not be parked in the resident zone.*

What about the different zones?

The Council intends to develop its residents’ parking permit programme by combining selected streets into a number of zones. Your permit would only allow you to park on streets within your zone. Your permit would show the zone in which you would be entitled to park.

What types of permit will be available?

There will be four types of permits:

1. Resident's permit
2. Business Permit
3. Visitor Permit (also known as scratch cards)
4. Carers/ Medical Permit

Resident’s Permit

A resident’s permit would have your vehicle registration number printed on it, so you would need to provide the following information to the Council:

- proof of vehicle ownership (or a letter of authority from your supplier in the case of a lease car, or an employer in the case of a company car) and
- proof of your residence in the zone when you apply

The permit can only be used for the vehicle specified and the Parking Wardens would check this. Displaying an invalid or expired permit may result in an Excess Charge Notice of £70 being issued.

There is a limit on the number of permits that can be issued to each household. Usually this would be three; however, in some zones where there is less on-street parking space, this may be reduced.
In the event of a change of vehicle, the old permit would be surrendered in exchange for a new permit for the new vehicle. Where residents have parking spaces, for example on a driveway, they may choose not to purchase parking permits.

Residents’ permits would be subject to an annual fee, which is currently £35. The annual fee is used to provide resources for the enforcement and administration of any scheme.

**Business Permits**

Businesses operating within a Residents’ Parking Scheme are eligible for a permit. In the event of a change of vehicle, the old permit would be surrendered in exchange for a new permit for the new vehicle. The annual fee is £35 per permit, per year and businesses may apply for up to three permits. Businesses within the zone may also opt to purchase daily scratch cards to allow their customers to park.

**Visitor Permits**

Short-term visits could be accommodated by limited waiting areas, available to non-permit holders, which can be provided in all residents parking zones, where the road layout and capacity allows.

Longer-term visits would be accommodated by the use of a visitors parking permit (scratch cards). These cost £6 per book of 24 scratch cards. There is no limit on the number of scratch cards you may purchase. There is no requirement for residents to purchase a £35 permit if they want to purchase daily scratch cards for their visitors.

**Long Term Carer’s/ Medical Permits**

Longer-term carer’s visits can be accommodated by the use of Carers/ Medical Permits. These would be issued to the appropriate organisation(s). Residents that require a Carers permit may apply for these. Details of how to apply and what evidence is required can be found on our website [www.kettering.gov.uk/residentsparking](http://www.kettering.gov.uk/residentsparking).

**What about blue badge holders?**

There are no exemptions for disabled badge holders within the zones.

**What about loading/unloading?**

Loading/ unloading operations may take place in the zone with or without a permit or scratch card for as long as the driver is physically in the act of loading and unloading only.

**How will I know where to park?**

There will be clear signage in place, which denotes where the zone begins and ends. There will also be repeater signs along the road to indicate to drivers that they are inside a
restricted parking zone. Drivers should not park over a dropped kerb vehicle access or on grassed areas

How will the scheme be enforced?

Kettering Borough Council has a team of trained uniformed Environmental and Parking Wardens to enforce the schemes within the Borough.

What happens next?

The views expressed as part of this consultation will be analysed and a detailed proposal prepared. Before a zone is introduced, at least 60% of the residents/businesses will need to support the proposal. Zones may be amended following feedback from the consultation.

It is important to remember that, at this stage, there are no definite proposals for any of the suggested zones. It is always possible that, as a result of the surveys and this consultation, schemes will not be introduced in all of the suggested areas.

How will decisions be made?

If as a result of the surveys, it is apparent that a residents parking scheme would be a sensible solution to any parking problems that currently exist within a zone, then the views of the residents expressed in the responses to the questionnaire will be taken into consideration.

What happens if a scheme is proposed?

Kettering Borough Council will then ask the County Council, as Highway Authority, to formally advertise the intention to introduce the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders for the Residents’ Parking Scheme or any alternative solution that may be proposed.

This is a legal requirement and the Council must consider any further views expressed at that stage, prior to the introduction of any scheme.

Following this, recommendations will then be made to the Executive Committee of the Council for agreement to implement any schemes.

When you have given this matter your consideration, the Council would appreciate your views by completing the attached questionnaire and returning it in the prepaid envelope provided.

Thank you for giving this matter your consideration.

Date