**May 2025**

**Frequently Asked Questions… on parking**

**The proposals consist of a combination of Single Yellow Lines, Double Yellow Lines and Permit Parking Places/Bays, Parking Zone Areas, Personalised Disabled Permit Bays. The affected streets are** CROSS FARM ROAD, MERRYFIELD GROVE, GRASDENE GROVE, LEAHURST CRESCENT, LEABON GROVE, METCHLEY DRIVE, MALINS ROAD, LYNWOOD WALK, LEESON WALK, and BANTOCK WAY**. For ease of identification, we have named this scheme as Area 3B.**

**Introduction**

**On-street parking around the University of Birmingham and Birmingham hospitals**

Recent expansions at the University of Birmingham and facilities on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital site mean that more people are now travelling to this area. Together with new homes and an increase in car ownership, there are now significant pressures on parking in local streets. This can have a negative impact on access for emergency vehicles, deliveries, buses, and waste vehicles, and on the safety of all road users. Many properties do not have private off-street parking, and so there are increasing demands on the limited supply of public on-street parking spaces. This work is part of the Hospitals and University Campus Planning Masterplan, a key objective of which is ‘to reduce the demand for car-based travel to the campus and university. Also, where possible address the impact of traffic congestion on local on-street parking of the local community’. In 2019 we asked you for your comments on the parking proposals and thanks to all of you who responded. Due to the delay in implementing the proposals the statutory process requires that we re-advertise the proposals again. We are therefore proposing measures that prioritise parking provision for residents in local streets and improve access and safety. From our experience, once we implement new permit parking measures within an area. there will be some level of vehicles being displaced into streets where there are no parking restrictions. It is difficult to predict the level of displaced parking, as motorists will assess their own needs and decide what is best for them. On average, it takes a minimum of 6 months for parking needs/patterns to settle down.

Please note, the current Statutory Consultation on parking proposals is to seek individual views, concerns, support, or objections. This is a legal process that the Council has commenced, it is not a referendum seeking level of support.

**Residents Permit Parking scheme?**

A resident parking scheme or zone is an area where on-street parking can be controlled to help local people park near their homes. This is usually offered where vehicles not belonging to residents are making parking difficult. The extent of the zone needs to be considered carefully to disperse any displaced parking. It should be noted that the scheme does not guarantee residents a space on the public highway (especially right outside their property), but it helps to manage inconsiderate or commuter parking on local roads. The scheme gives priority for residents to park near their homes. Also, the proposed Yellow Lines is to improve access for service vehicles, refuse collection vehicles, and emergency vehicles. It demonstrates to road users how to better manage where vehicles can park safely. The scheme enables limited parking for visitors to the area. The scheme outlines the limited parking spaces available street by street, where we estimate the current parking demand is medium to high.

We would encourage motorists not to park on footway. Any vehicle which park on the footway will cause levels of damage to the footway surface which may be visible. This can also damage the utilities underneath such as gas, water, electricity, comms copper lines or fibre lines. As you may be aware, parked vehicles on the footway causes obstruction and makes it unsafe/difficult for other vehicles and including pedestrians and the most vulnerable i.e. children, elderly, and people with disabilities. And, in extreme cases parking on the footway can cause harm, and cause ‘Road Rage’

between road users. As you may be aware, any damaged footway will need to be repaired, and person who has personal injury or suffers losses will need to be paid for by BCC Council Tax (General Fund).

The proposed parking permits are named as ‘Virtual Permits’, where you would not need to display a valid permit as your vehicle registration plate will be monitored by our latest IT devices. Only the permit holders will be able to park within the designated bays on the roads covered by the scheme during the hours of operation. You cannot use your parking permit in any other permit schemes across the borough. We do anticipate some level of displaced parking occurring outside of the scheme, where we plan to monitor the scheme and areas outside of the scheme for a period of 6 months.

**What is the purpose of a parking scheme?**

Parking schemes are effective tools in better managing our local streets, by giving priority parking where possible for disabled blue badge, residents, businesses, and visitors. By improving road safety, air pollution and access, by preventing dangerous/obstructive parking on bends, on footways, on junctions and driveway. These types of parking schemes are in-keeping and meet the objectives of BCC’s Transport Policy.

**Will I be eligible for a permit?**

If you live or trade within one of the streets proposed for permit parking, you will be eligible to purchase a permit and you will be permitted to park anywhere within the scheme area, as shown on the plan. The number of permits issued will be linked to all spaces available on-street. To be equitable to all householders within the scheme we plan to control and prevent oversubscription of parking permits. Our aim is to ensure every household who applied for their first permit receives it. As priority is given to the first permit applications with residents, they will also be able to apply for their second permit at the same time. But that would only be issued once we understood better the number of applications being made, and that there are available on-street spaces.

**What will a permit scheme mean for the Disabled Blue Badge holders?**

The current arrangement for Disabled Blue Badge holders does not allow them to be used within permit holder bays/areas. Only, Disabled Blue Badge holders whose home address is within the parking scheme boundary and are also classed as ‘residents’ of the parking scheme. If you have a car registered to your home address, you can apply for a free resident parking permit to park within the permit holder bays/areas. As a resident who has a valid Disabled Blue Badge your first resident permit would be free of charge. However, if your household has a second car you would need to pay for the second permit at the first permit price. Residents of the scheme who have visitors with a valid Disabled Blue Badge will need to use one of their visitor parking permit, to allow them to park in the permit bays/areas. Once, you receive your permit application pack you would need to contact us early, as these applications takes longer time to process.

You may be aware the Council have provided several Advisory Disabled wheelchair symbol/road marked areas for residents who have a valid Disabled Blue Badge and need to park near their home. Also, some of these areas are shared by other residents with similar needs. We are to pilot a new ‘Disabled Permit Holder Parking Bay‘ which will replace the current format. It will be distinct from other permit bays and will have their own separate parking sign with a separate Prefix Permit number. These bays will be enforceable and assigned to the blue badge household that that meets the criteria.

The proposal for visitors to the area who have a valid Disabled Blue Badge will be limited. They can only park within permit bays/zones using Resident **Visitor Permits** obtained by residents of the scheme, as their Disabled Blue Badge is not allowed. They will be able to park using their Disabled Blue badge on yellow lines with limited stay and must not cause an obstruction. As, they will need to adhere to their Disabled Blue Badge’s condition of use for parking on yellow lines. However, if

your circumstances change there is a separate application process to access new formal Disabled Bay markings, please visit our web site for more information:

 [New works on the highway | Request new works on the highway | Birmingham City Council](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20110/report_road_and_pavement_issues/719/request_new_works_on_the_highway)

**Carer Permits**

We offer Carers Parking Permit only to residents of the scheme. We understand some residents of the scheme may need personal care and may require it as part of their care package assistance from carers. Once, you receive your permit application pack you would need to contact us early, as these applications takes more time to process.

**How to obtain a permit?**

After this formal Statutory Consultation on formalising on-street parking, we will write to you with the outcome. And if the Council decides to implement this new Permit Parking Scheme, we will then write to you informing you on how to apply for your parking permit. The owner of the vehicle must live at the property to which the permit can be issued. Also Parking Permits application can be made via post or via the Birmingham City Council website:
[www.birmingham.gov.uk/resident-permit](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/resident-permit) [www.birmingham.gov.uk/business-permit](file:///%5C%5CSVWCCG112%5CInfrastructureProjects%5CCommissions%5CCA-03047-03%20Parking%20Management%20Measures%5C2.0%20%20Communication%20%26%20Consultation%5C2.3%20Consultation%5CBeHeard%20upload%5Cwww.birmingham.gov.uk%5Cbusiness-permit)

The council has moved away from paper permit system so no need to display your permit within the windscreen. The new system is called ‘Virtual Permits’. Once, a virtual permit is assigned to a vehicle, the vehicles registration number plate will be recognised as their parking permit.

**How many permits can I buy?**

Resident permits will be limited to **one** per household in the first instance, if demand does not exceed the number of permits available then second permits could be made available. No household will be able to apply for more than two permits. If demand for the permits exceeds the amount of permits available, then a waiting list may be formed.

**Can I still have visitors?**

Only, ‘residents’ of the scheme will be able to purchase permits for their visitors. The visitor permits come in a book of five, each entitling a visitor to park during the operational times of the permit parking scheme.

**What about the Business Permits?**

Priority is given to residents’ parking needs first, but a limited number of business permits may be made available to employees working within the areas. These will be available on a first come first saved basis. The number of permits available for business use will be kept under review.

**How much will a permit cost?**

The current parking charges are uniform across all our operating parking schemes, are shown below as an example:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type (July 2024) | Cost for a Yearly Permit | Replacement Permits\* |
| Resident Permit – First | **£21.60** | **£13** |
| Resident Permit – Second | **£41.20** | **£13** |
| Visitors Permits x 5 | **£4** | **n/a** |
| Business Permit | **£153.50** | **£13\*\*** |

\* Lost, stolen, damaged or vehicle registration change

\*\* Stolen Permit - crime reference number must be provided

**Please note that these prices are reviewed annually and are subject to change.**

**What if I change my vehicle?**

A permanent change of vehicle will require you to apply for a replacement permit specific to the registration of the new vehicle at a cost of i.e. £13 – please note that the council reviews ALL their prices around every 1st April. If it is a temporary change of vehicle such as servicing or repairs, it may be suitable for you to consider using your visitor permits.

**What if I do not own a car but have regular visitors?**

If you do not own a private vehicle, you will still be able to purchase visitor parking permits for family, friends, and trades people during the operating times of the scheme. If possible, it may be worth having your visitors outside of the scheme’s operational times as the permit parking bays are free to park. Those who have a regular carer can apply for an annual free carers’ permit.

**What if I have access to an off-street parking?**

If you park on private land such as your own driveway/front garden or an off-street designated space, then you will not be required to purchase a residents’ permit. You would only require purchasing visitor permits if you or any visitors need to park on the road during the operational times of the scheme.

**What happens if I have any work done on my house?**

Trade vehicles are allowed to load/unload goods to your home. If you need trade vehicles to park, they will need to display a valid visitor permit for each day they park on the public highway during the restriction. Also, for larger projects on your property, you can apply for Parking Suspensions or Dispensations, there is a separate application process, please visit our web site for more information: [Apply for parking suspensions or dispensations | Birmingham City Council](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking/516/apply_for_parking_suspensions_or_dispensations)

**How will it be enforced?**

The Council employs parking enforcement contractor who can issue a legal Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) to any vehicle (except emergency vehicles) which is parked in the permit zone or marked bay during the hours of restriction and not displaying a valid permit. Also, our enforcement team will observe parking activity on yellow lines and will issue PCN for non-compliance of parking regulations.

**For Up-to-date Information on Parking & Traffic**

If you require further information on parking matters, you can visit Council’s web site: [Parking | Birmingham City Council](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking)

Also, you can obtain latest national level information from the Highway Code on parking and traffic related matters please visit governments web link: [The Highway Code - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code)