

Residents' Parking Schemes in Swale

We are currently undertaking a review of the existing Residents' Parking Schemes in the Borough and would welcome your views. Many schemes have been in place for a number of years, and as vehicle ownership increases so does the pressure on parking. It is therefore important for us to understand any particular issues within the current schemes to enable us to consider possible amendments.

What Residents' Parking Schemes Can Do

Residents' Parking Schemes can be introduced in central areas of towns, to restrict on-street parking by non-residents. Their purpose is to prevent long term parking by commuters and visitors to the town centre, by restricting the amount of time non-permit holders can park.

Permits can be purchased by eligible properties only, and those vehicles displaying a valid permit can park unrestricted. Those vehicles without permits will generally have a limited waiting time during the operating hours of the scheme. By controlling parking by non-permit holders, parking capacity for permit holders can be maximised.

What Residents' Parking Schemes Cannot Do

Residents' Parking Schemes cannot solve issues where there is simply not enough on-street parking capacity for the number of vehicles owned by residents. This is why we currently limit the number of permits to two per property. Because the schemes are designed to tackle issues associated with commuter and town centre visitor parking, they do not operate seven days a week, or for 24 hours a day.

In the majority of scheme areas, non-permit holders are permitted to park for a short period of time. This is to allow short-term visits to properties, for friends and family, trades people and deliveries, to park without the need to purchase a daily permit.

Residents' Parking Schemes are ineffective in tackling problems in an isolated road, as parked vehicles are merely displaced into adjoining roads. Even though schemes are introduced in larger areas, it is acknowledged that such displacement of parked vehicles still occurs to surrounding areas.

Residents' Parking Scheme Survey

We are always looking at ways to improve the service and respond to current trends. We would be most grateful to receive your feedback by completing the on-line survey which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SBCReview>

For those residents who do not have access to the internet, a paper copy of the survey can be obtained by telephoning our Customer Service Centre on 01795 417850. The closing date for this survey is **Friday 20th November 2020**.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our consultation.