Proposed Parking Changes Across Somerset County Council

Resident's Parking Permits

There are currently three areas across the County where resident parking permits are available.

Current charges are detailed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Taunton Deane (Taunton)</th>
<th>South Somerset (Yeovil)</th>
<th>West Somerset (Minehead)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Vehicle</td>
<td>£35</td>
<td>£35</td>
<td>£8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Vehicle</td>
<td>£50</td>
<td>As first</td>
<td>As first</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle</td>
<td>£15</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Permit (annual)</td>
<td>£20</td>
<td>£15</td>
<td>£35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Permit (scratch cards)</td>
<td>100 at 20p each</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To ensure permit charges are consistent across the County and cover the costs of administrating, enforcing and maintaining the schemes, it is proposed to increase the charges year on year over the next three years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Vehicle</td>
<td>£45</td>
<td>£60</td>
<td>£70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Vehicle</td>
<td>£70</td>
<td>£110</td>
<td>£150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycles</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Permits (annual)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Permits (scratch cards)</td>
<td>Up to 4 hours – 50p* (sold in books of 10)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All day – £1.00* (sold in books of 10)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Pay by phone Virtual Permit)</td>
<td>* Cost to be reduced to reflect lower service charge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Proposals - Initiatives

1. **Motorcycle permit**

In recognition of the green credentials of motor cycles, reduced impact on congestion and practicalities of displaying a permit, it is proposed to abolish the current requirement for motorcycles to display a permit.

2. **Proposed annual visitor permits**

Feedback from residents suggests these are being misused. Residents have indicated they are being used on a daily basis by the same vehicle. The withdrawal of annual open permits will prevent misuse.

Once the new policy and charging structure is in place, applications for these permits will no longer be accepted.

Existing permits will remain valid until the date of expiry.

3. **Proposed daily visitor permits**

The current style of daily visitor permits will be phased out, but will remain valid.

New daily permits will be available without reference to a year.

Two types of daily visitor permits will be available.

Up to 4 hours for short term visitors. Available in books of 10 vouchers priced at **50p** per voucher.

Over 4 hours (valid all day). Available in books of 10 vouchers at **£1.00** per voucher.

*Discounts to apply if purchased by way of the Council’s pay by phone provider.

An annual limit of 12 books (120 vouchers of either type or combination) per property will be available.

One complimentary all day book (set of 10) will be issued to each household annually with their first order.

4. **Disabled Drivers**

Residents who are holders of disabled drivers blue badge:

First vehicle – no charge

Second vehicle – charged as first vehicle

5. **Proposed Low emission vehicle discount**

The current discount for low emission vehicles is to be withdrawn as the discount discriminates against lower income households.
6. **Proposed Eligibility of new builds/property conversions**

Where a new build within an existing resident zone is created, the new properties will not be eligible for additional resident parking permits. The previous entitlement of permits is retained and can be distributed amongst the households of the new development.

7. **Proposed non resident landlord permit**

In recognition of this category of property owner it is proposed to introduce a new permit for non resident landlords. This will enable owners of properties in which they are not resident to freely visit during the hours of control.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone Description</th>
<th>Fee (per District)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single zone</td>
<td>£150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 3 Zones</td>
<td>£300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Zones</td>
<td>£600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. **Proposed Business Permits**

Businesses within a residential area that need a vehicle to undertake their business, e.g. florist. Permits will be eligible for use by the vehicle registered for use within the business.

Business permit £150 per Single Zone.

9. **Proposed Loading Permits**

Whilst loading is a permitted exemption, feedback from retailers indicates that problems occur when private vehicles are used.

To assist retailers and provide them with a “safe loading” window it is proposed to introduce a loading permit for retailers.

The permit when correctly displayed will enable retailers to park (in areas where loading is permitted) for 20 minutes. During this period it will not be necessary for a civil enforcement officer to observe loading for the loading exemption to be valid.

Proposed charge for loading permits £100 per year.

10. **Health professional/carers permit**

The current interim arrangement for health professionals and carers is to be confirmed with a small change to control the use of permits.

Guidance from the Department of Transport places an obligation on an enforcement authority to accommodate health professionals and carers visiting patients within areas where parking controls apply.

It is proposed these permits will only be valid for up to two hours at a time. To avoid placing an unnecessary strain on the NHS or related organisations it is proposed to apply a nominal £10 annual charge per permit.
11. Proposed Dispensations and Suspensions

Somerset County Council, in certain circumstances, will allow a vehicle or vehicles, by the issue of a dispensation or suspension, to park lawfully in what otherwise would be in contravention of a Traffic Regulation Order (parking control) without leaving the vehicle liable to receive a penalty charge notice.

A suspension is “a parking bay that has had the traffic regulation order suspended for an agreed time period.” e.g. “a pay and display parking bay, resident parking bay or limited time parking bay”

A dispensation refers to a driver (e.g. a removal company or builder) being given permission to park at a specific location on a length of road where there is a traffic regulation order e.g. yellow lines.

It is proposed to introduce the following charges:

One to Three Days £10 Per bay/vehicle per day
Over Three Days £30 Per bay/vehicle per week
Over Three Weeks £100 Per bay/vehicle per month
Administration fee £10 Per application