

Parking zones

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This leaflet provides answers to frequently asked questions about the design of parking zones

Parking background

Southwark has more cars than kerbspace. With not enough places for everyone to park something has to be done to manage this. Residents in over 50% of the borough have chosen to introduce parking zones where they live.

Every day a net 36,000 people commute into Southwark and with more residents choosing parking controls, continued improvements to road safety, bus and cycle facilities - the pressure on the remaining uncontrolled areas increases.

What is a parking zone?

Parking zones are used internationally as an effective way of prioritising kerb space in favour of certain types of road user or activity (e.g. residents or vehicles that are loading). Parking bays will show where it is safe to park and yellow lines will indicate where it is not.

When are parking zones introduced?

Parking schemes usually encourage a difference of opinion and therefore proposals are subject to extensive consultation with the community as well as numerical parking stress surveys. The time taken from initial concept to a new zone commencing will be at least 12 months.

How will parking controls assist my area?

- Prioritises space for local residents, businesses and their visitors.
- Prevents commuter parking
- Improves access for vehicles – especially emergency service and refuse vehicles
- Improves highway safety and reduces inconsiderate parking
- Enables 'permit-free' planning conditions to be placed upon future developments
- Reduces the dominance of parked cars on a street, enabling other use of that space



Benhill Road,
before parking controls



Benhill Road, following
introduction of EC parking zone

Who can park in a parking zone?

There are a range of permits available for residents, business, visitors, carers, doctors and motorcycles. Residents must live within the parking zone boundary. Business must require a vehicle for essential day-to-day deliveries, not for commuting.

When do parking zones operate?

Parking zones are tailored to local parking conditions and the times and days will be agreed during consultation. We have some parking zones that operate 12 hrs / day, 7 days / week and others that only operate for 2 hrs / day.

How much does parking cost?*

Type of permit	Cost				Discount
	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months	
Resident	£15.74	£36.58	£67.83	£125.00	75% discount for blue badge holders, alternative fuel vehicles or motorcycles
Business	3 months	6 months	12 months		
	£176.00	£352.00	£577.50		n/a
Resident visitor	£25 for ten, one-day stay (1 st purchase) £45 for ten, one-day stay (2 nd + purchase / year)				50% discount for blue badge holders
On-street pay parking	£2.50 / hour (average, may vary in some areas)				

*prices correct at 17/06/2015

Why do I have to pay for a permit?

Legislation requires that we keep a separate parking account and that all parking schemes are self-financing. Therefore, it is not possible to introduce or enforce the parking regulations without making a charge. These are set at a level which covers the cost of administration and achieves the objectives of the parking zones.

What if I hold a disabled badge?

The council offers a disabled parking bay service to blue badge holders. This service continues irrespective of any new parking zone. If you don't have a blue badge bay you would need to purchase a residents parking permit - blue badge holders are eligible for a 75% discount on residents permits and 50% on visitor permits. Blue badge holders can park free and without time limit in any paid for parking bay or up to three hours on a yellow line.

What about my business customers?

We will install paid parking in areas where visitors may wish to park. We can also introduce dedicated disabled visitor parking, motorcycle bays or loading bays.

Is the parking zone a permanent feature?

No. Parking zones are usually introduced on an experimental basis so that everyone can have opportunity to see how they work in practise. It also allows us to review the zone soon after introduction and make changes where necessary. We will also make changes, when requested, to zones on a periodic basis.

Conclusions and contacts

Parking zones have helped residents and businesses in many areas of the borough by managing the limited resource of on-street parking. There are other areas where pressure for parking zone consultation exists and we review this on an annual basis - but we're always keen to hear your views to help us prioritise our work.