

Your contact is:

Residents Parking Permits - Transportation and Streetcare Services

Dear

RESIDENTS PARKING PERMIT SCHEME - UPDATE ON PERMIT CHARGES

I am writing to inform you that, regrettably, the Council will start charging for FIRST residents' permits from **1st April 2017**.

The new charge will be £30 a year for a first residents' permit. It will apply for new permits issued and to existing permits on subsequent renewal dates. There are no changes to the second permit charge, which will remain at £120, and no change to the visitor permit allocation.

Reading's Residents Parking Scheme was introduced over 40 years ago, in 1976. Since then, first permits, now totalling over 7000, have been provided free of charge to households located in permit zones.

Unprecedented cuts in Government funding have come at a time when demand on Council services is increasing. The Council has already made £65 million of savings since 2011. At least £42 million of savings are still needed by 2020. It means the Council is forced to consider a number of difficult budget decisions.

Unfortunately, the Council can no longer afford to provide the first permit free of charge. The vast majority of local authorities who run residents' parking schemes already charge for a first permit, including nearby West Berkshire, Wokingham and Slough.

Demand for parking in Reading continues to increase. The Council is regularly contacted by residents who want to see improved enforcement of existing permit zones and by residents who want new zones set up to allow them to park near to their homes.

The new first permit charge will help to cover the cost of running and enforcing the Residents Parking Scheme and to consider introducing new permit zones where local residents want them. It will also help pay for:

- The improved enforcement of existing permit zones including quicker detection of illegally parked vehicles by upgrading the enforcement (CCTV) vehicle.
- A new permit application process to allow residents to manage their parking permit needs more easily online: providing a simpler method to order additional visitor permits and for making new applications. This new improved service offer is intended to be available to residents by September 2017.

- The introduction of more flexible visitor permit renewal system until the new online system is introduced.

More details of service improvements will be given during this year; please check the website for information.

If you have any further questions or queries please email the team at Residents.parking@reading.gov.uk.

Further information can be found on the website: <http://www.reading.gov.uk/parkingpermits>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Alison Bell
Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services