



# Northumberland County Council

## **Disabled Parking in Berwick upon Tweed on Charter Market Days**

An enquiry was received at a Public Question Time session during the Council Meeting on Wednesday 3rd January 2018, regarding the loss of 7 disabled parking bays in Marygate on Charter Market days ie. Wednesday and Saturday.

Following this enquiry we would like to consult with stakeholders in Berwick to understand the impact of this long standing arrangement on people who have disabilities.

To collect people's views and perspectives we have created a survey form that we hope people will complete and return to us so that we can take an informed view on if any changes are required.

We are particularly interested to hear from blue badge holders if the loss of 7 disabled parking bays in Marygate on Charter Market days causes them significant difficulties and if they are aware of all the alternative parking options that blue badge holders have in the town centre.

We have drawn together some background information relating to this issue and have identified three possible options for consideration to mitigate the impact on disabled parking bay users during Charter Market days and the council are now seeking and would welcome any feedback from stakeholders on these options.

An online response form is available using the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/TADBCTYBe0zLRvC13>. Completed hard copies of the form at the end of this document should be returned to Northumberland County Council Depot, Northumberland Road, Tweedmouth, Berwick upon Tweed, Northumberland TD15 2AS. You can also email your completed form to [berwickdepot@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:berwickdepot@northumberland.gov.uk). All responses should be returned by 31st July 2018.

The options listed below require careful consideration. It is important that any measures implemented by the Council do not have a negative impact on the commercial viability of the market or the attraction of the Town Centre as a thriving market town to visitors, do not result in loss of income for local businesses and also limit any health and safety risks to pedestrians and market users.

Over the next few months, we will be seeking the views of Berwick Town Council, local residents and local disability groups. Once we have received responses, all of the feedback will be collated and considered alongside the background information that we have.

The Council will then complete an Equalities Impact Assessment and communicate the outcome of that assessment to all stakeholders that respond to the consultation.

During the consultation period (approx. 4 months) we will maintain the status quo.

## Background Information

According to the latest Nomis data ([www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)), Northumberland has a population of around 316,000 with 12,070 residents claiming ESA and Incapacity Benefits and 1,630 residents claiming Disabled Benefit. We also know that there are 16,859 Blue Badge Holders in Northumberland, of which, 16,587 badges are issued to individuals and 272 are issued to organisations.

We know that the Charter Market at Berwick is a very busy market and that footfall is particularly high during the summer months. This means that the market attracts a large number of traders utilising all of the available pitches during the summer. The disabled bays on Marygate are frequently used on the days when the market is not on. There are however, other disabled parking options available to Blue Badge holders in the town centre i.e. Eastern Lane Car Park at the Maltings. There are also double yellow line restrictions on Marygate where Blue Badge holders can legally park for up to 3 hours when displaying their blue badge parking clock, provided that they do not park where it would endanger, inconvenience or obstruct pedestrians or other road users.

Available parking enforcement data for fiscal years 16/17 and 17/18 does not show a significant rise in parking enforcement within the Town Centre on Charter Market days. Therefore, the reduction of 7 disabled parking bays is not considered to have a significant impact on parking enforcement.

Contravention 01 Waiting Prohibited - a PCN issued to a vehicle parked on a Single or Double Yellow Line when not permitted to be there (including Blue Badge holders who have parked for longer than 3 hours while displaying the blue badge and clock)

	Town Centre	
	16/17	17/18
	01 Waiting Prohibited	01 Waiting Prohibited
Total - All days	191	203
Monday	15	25
Tuesday	35	35
Wednesday	31	35
Thursday	26	22
Friday	27	27
Saturday	57	47
Sunday	0	12

Contravention 40 No/Invalid Blue Badge - a PCN issued to a vehicle parked in a

disabled person's bay without displaying a valid blue badge

	Town Centre	
	16/17	17/18
	40 No/Invalid Blue Badge	40 No/Invalid Blue Badge
Total - All days	24	14
Monday	1	2
Tuesday	7	4
Wednesday	2	0
Thursday	6	3
Friday	7	5
Saturday	1	0
Sunday	0	0

Note: There are a number of factors to consider when viewing this data i.e. enforcement is dependent on a number of factors such as; Staffing availability, events and dispensations, Saturday is typically the busiest day of the week for the town centre, the weather can also have an impact on footfall and parking.

# Map of Town Centre



## **Options**

### **Option 1**

#### **Reducing the disabled parking bays used by Market Traders to erect their stalls in Marygate from 7 to 5**

This option would see a reduction in the total number of pitches available for rental by traders by reducing the number of disabled parking bays utilised by the market i.e. from 7 to 5. Implementing this option would require Neighbourhood Services operational staff sectioning off 2 disabled bays out of the 7 disabled bays that are currently used as market pitches on market days when the stalls are set up.

This option would result in a reduced number of stalls within the market. This option would also result in a small reduction of income for the Council (approx. £1,516 pa).

The expected outcome of this option would be to lessen the impact of the loss of all 7 disabled parking bays during market days.

This option could however create a health and safety risk to market customers and pedestrians in Marygate i.e. when motorists use the parking bays due the close proximity of the market stalls to the 2 reserved bays, there may be a risk of injury to pedestrians, market traders and shoppers.

Utilising cones and barriers to cordon off 2 disabled bays would not significantly reduce the risk of injury caused by vehicles parking but may present an additional risk to visually impaired pedestrians.

### **Option 2**

#### **Use the loading bays on Marygate and the taxi rank on Walkergate as temporary disabled bays on Charter Market days**

This option involves using a section of the loading bays along Marygate as temporary disabled bays during market days and also the taxi rank on Walkergate. To make this possible, Neighbourhood Services operational staff would use signage to identify the loading bays to be used as temporary disabled parking bays during market days. It is expected that this option would achieve enough space to accommodate 3 - 4 disabled bays which would lessen the impact of losing 7 disabled parking bays during market days.

This option may however cause problems for shop owners who need to use the loading bays on market days, as the temporary disabled bays could be in use all day. Implementing this option could result in a rise in complaints from businesses and proprietors within Marygate. Temporary barriers, signs and cones used to section off the loading bays and taxi rank areas could also present a health and safety risk to visually impaired pedestrians.

### **Option 3**

#### **Maintain the current historical arrangement and actively promote the use of alternative parking options available to Blue Badge holders on Charter Market days**

This option is to maintain the current historical arrangement whereby 7 disabled parking bays located on Marygate in Berwick are used to accommodate traders pitches on Charter Market days. The current long standing historical arrangement is not widely disputed and the Council has not received any Stage 1 complaints regarding this issue over the last 3 years.

Parking enforcement statistics do not show an increase in parking enforcement on market days and therefore does not indicate that there is a knock on effect of parking issues as a result of utilising the disabled bays. In addition to using alternative disabled parking bays within the town centre, on Charter Market days Blue Badge holders may also park on single or double yellow lines for up to three hours if it is safe to do so but not within 15 metres of a junction or where there are restrictions on loading or unloading – indicated by yellow kerb dashes and/or signs on plates.

Actively promoting the use of alternative disabled parking, will be a priority of this option and will include updating Charter Market webpages with alternative disabled parking bay locations as well as the ability to park on double yellow lines for up to 3 hours if it safe to do so if you are a blue badge holder. The methods by which we could do this wouldl be to promote alternatives via our Chartered Market webpages (<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Campaigns/Markets/Berwick-Market.aspx> ) and also by using temporary signage in and around the town centre.



# Northumberland County Council

## Berwick Charter Market Disabled Parking - Options for Consultation

Name of person  
or organisation

Contact number

Contact email


(Please provide an email address if you would like to be informed of the outcome of this consultation,  
if you do not want to be contacted please tick this box)

Are you:

Local Councillor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Business Owner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Market Trader	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue Badge Holder	<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of a disability group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state):				Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your feedback  
on the current  
situation and  
options for  
consideration:

Does the temporary loss of 7 disabled parking bays during Charter Market days cause you or anyone you know significant difficulties? (Please tick)		
<table border="1"><tr><td>Yes</td><td>No</td></tr></table>	Yes	No
Yes	No	
<b>Option 1 - Reducing the disabled parking bays used by Market Traders to erect their stalls in Marygate from 7 to 5</b>		
Your Comments:		

**Option 2 - Use the loading bays on Marygate and the taxi rank on Walkergate as temporary disabled bays on Charter Market days**

Your Comments:

**Option 3 - Maintain the current historical arrangement and actively promote the use of alternative parking options available to Blue Badge holders on Charter Market days**

Your Comments:

Preferred Option (Please Tick)

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	None
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Additional Comments

If you wish to use the online form, please use the following link:  
<https://goo.gl/forms/TADBCTYBe0zLRvC13>



People and Communities  
 Item 9  
 Appendix D  
 Tuesday, 5 June 2018

DATE	WHAT DECISION IS REQUESTED	WHY DOES THIS DECISION NEED TO BE MADE	WHO REQUESTED IT?	WHEN DOES IT NEED TO BE MADE?
14/05/2018	Update from LGBTQ+ Survey	best practice	TC	June 2018
17/05/18	Future of the Film Festival	best practice	Film Festival	July 2018
30/05/2018	Riding of the Bounds	Review of performance	TC	July 2018
30/05/2018	Homelessness Provision	Benefit the community	TC	2018
14/05/2018	Budget Consultation	best practice	TC	January 2019

## Report of the Town Clerk

### Homelessness (Forward Plan)

#### Background

1. Members of the committee have previously raised with your staff the issue of homelessness, and the homelessness of people with complex needs in Berwick, and the apparent lack of services for them.
2. The Homelessness service that covers Berwick upon Tweed is provided by Northumberland County Council.
3. Your officers could undertake a literature review of how other authorities provide homelessness services in rural areas and compare them to services provided by Northumberland County Council, but this would be akin to undertaking a scrutiny report.
4. We have the skills to prepare such a report, but officers are unclear as to whether it is a good use of the council's resources to devote a considerable amount of time to such research.
5. We note that housing and homelessness is the responsibility of the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Northumberland County Council, and your officers would suggest it may be appropriate to write to the Chair of that committee, asking them to consider including Homelessness Services, including services for individuals with complex needs, in their work programme.

#### Recommendation

1. That members indicate their preferences with regard to this proposal.