

Green and Built Environment Significant Decision

RESIDENTIAL DISABLED PARKING BAYS -POLICY REVIEW

Prepared by: Kam Hothi – Team Leader Parking

Purpose of Significant Decision

To approve the implementation of an updated policy on the provision of residential Disabled Parking Bays, after the undertaking of a comprehensive audit of all existing Disabled Parking Bays in the borough.

Background

Slough Borough Council's existing policy regarding Disabled Parking Bays was approved by Significant Decision (SD) in October 2006. This SD also recommended that a review of the status of all disabled parking bays within the borough, along with pending applications should be undertaken on an annual basis.

In accordance with this recommendation and in response to complaints received from the residents over potential "redundant" bays, a full audit of all existing bays was undertaken. A total of 243 audit packs were sent out on the 26th April 2009 to all current applicants of the scheme to enquire if the parking bay was still required.

A reminder pack was then sent out to the residents who had not responded to the Authority on the 16th July 2009 to advise they were required to complete and return the forms to prevent the Disabled Parking Bay from being removed.

The audit asked for:

- The applicant to complete the audit application form, which required their General Practitioner to sign in support of the application.
- A check to be carried out by the Transport section with Social Services to confirm they support the application.
- To complete a questionnaire to enquire if they would support the transition from "Advisory Bays" to "Enforceable Bays" which would be supported by a Traffic Regulation Order.

A total of 146 applicants correctly returned their audit application forms, with their applications being supported both by their General Practitioner along with the Blue Badge Team. The audit has identified 62 bays that are no longer required due to the death of the original applicant or them moving away from the address. In addition, a further 52 applications have been approved to date making a total of 198 to implement and enforce.

Furthermore, 109 residents returned the accompanying questionnaire, with 90% of residents supporting the transition from advisory to enforceable bays and would help blue badge holders be able to park and commute easier. In addition, 92% of residents agreed that the Residential Disabled Parking Bays were clearly marked.

A review of the current Disabled Parking Bay policy also noted that certain areas were not covered when a decision was being made by a Council Officer to either accept or refuse the application. To ensure consistency of decisions being made, amendments to the policy are required.

Financial Implications

For the Authority to upgrade all of the current Residential Disabled Parking Bays so that they become enforceable, we would require new Traffic Regulation Orders, new signs and correct road markings these works are estimated at £52,000. This will be funded from the Highways Revenues Budget. Breakdowns of these costs are:

Breakdown	Cost
Sign - Pole, Concrete Base and Labour	£167.46
Bay - Lining and 8 letters stating Disabled	£94.29
Total Price per Bay	£261.75

Recommended Decision

1. That the attached revised policy on the provision of residential disabled parking spaces to be approved and implemented; and
2. Businesses are able to apply for a disabled parking place outside of their premises for the use of the general public.

Approved by:

Commissioner for Neighbourhoods and Renewal	SIGNATURE REDACTED SIGNATURE REDACTED SIGNATURE REDACTED SIGNATURE REDACTED	Date <u>21/4/11</u>
Assistant Director (Transport and Planning)		Date <u>15/4/11</u>
Head of Transport		Date <u>15/4/11</u>
Project Manager		Date <u>15/4/11</u>

Policy for the Provision of a Residential Disabled Parking Bay

1. The person, to whom the application relates, must be a holder of a valid Blue Disability Badge issued in accordance with the Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (England) Regulations 2000.
2. The council will consult with the Social Services Department in order to confirm the validity of the applicant's Blue Badge the extent of the applicant's disability and mobility limitations and to obtain their support for the provisions of a Disabled Parking Bay.
3. The main vehicle the applicant will park within the Disabled Parking Bay must be registered to their home address, with the applicant providing a copy of the VQ5 document at the time of application.
4. The applicant's application form will need to be signed by the Disabled Badge holder's General Practitioner to confirm their need for a Disabled Parking Bay. The applicant should meet any request for payment by the General Practitioner for this service.
5. The extent of parking in the applicant's road will be assessed by a Council Traffic Engineer in order to determine:-
 - a) The level of difficulty in parking within an acceptable distance of the applicant's home and;
 - b) The practicality of providing a Disabled Parking Bay within an acceptable distance of the applicant's home.
6. In order to ensure our streets do not become too cluttered with Disabled Parking Bays, Slough Borough Council will assess the number of existing Disabled Parking Bays on each street before making a decision. (The Parking Engineer will undertake a site inspection and make a decision.)
7. The council reserves the right to refuse an application for a Disabled Parking Bay if:-
 - a) The applicant is not the holder of a valid Blue Disability Badge or;
 - b) The applicant is not a full time resident within the borough;
 - c) The application is not supported by the Social Services Department or;
 - d) The applicant has lawful access to a private off-street parking place
 - e) If there is private off street parking place associated with the applicants property but no legal access (i.e. drop crossing), the application will be held on file until this matter is resolved.
 - f) It was the decision of the Council or Authority that the provision of a Disabled Parking Bay will unduly displace on-street parking to the detriment of neighbours, impede traffic movements or compromise road safety in anyway.
 - g) If over 10% of the parking available is already designated Disabled Parking Bays.
 - h) If there is insufficient space outside of the applicants property for the bay to be marked in accordance with current guidelines.

8. Once an application has been accepted, the Council or Authority will:-
 - a) On a road where no parking controls are in force at the location of the proposed parking bay, provide a road marking to diagram number 1028.3 and associated sign to diagram number 661A of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Direction 2002.
 - b) In a road where parking controls are in force at the location of the proposed parking bay, provide a road marking to diagram number 1028.3 and associated sign to diagram number 661A of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 following completion of the necessary statutory procedures required to amend the existing traffic regulation order, including consultation.
9. The Council or Authority will meet all costs associated with the processing of the application, providing the Disabled Parking Bay marking and sign and undertaking amendments to the relevant Traffic Regulation Order. This process can take up to 6 months from the date of receipt of application.
10. The council will maintain and update a database with the names and addresses of all persons who have a Disabled Parking Bay provided on their road. Every 12 months all persons included on the database will be contacted in writing to request proof of a Blue Disability Badge and to confirm whether the Disabled Parking Bay is still required.
11. If, under any circumstances a Disabled Parking Bay is no longer required the council will arrange for it to be removed.
12. If a Disabled Parking Bay has been provided and at a later date a lawful access to a private off-street parking place is then created, the Authority retains the right to remove the Disabled Parking Bay associated with that property if it feels necessary.

Special Circumstance

The current guidance outlined in TSRGD 2002 states that Disabled Parking Bays are required to be a minimum of 6.6 metres in length, and between 2.7 metres and 3.6 metres in width. Slough Borough Council will always try to meet this specification when implementing new Disabled Parking Bays, however where this is not possible, the Authority retains the right to implement a Disabled Parking Bay with a minimum width of 1.8 metres, which the Traffic Sign Manual Chapter 3 states is the bare minimum. The Authority will inform the applicant if a 1.8 metre bay will be implemented.