

Disabled Persons Parking Bays



Thanet District Council carry out the task of installing new Disabled Persons Parking Bays within residential streets. This is done on behalf of the Highways Authority - Kent County Council.

A Blue Badge Holders can apply for a bay to be installed in a road where the Blue Badge Holder resides. This involves an application process which is in place to assess if the applicant is eligible. Blue Badge Holders can request an application pack to be sent to them by contacting the Civil Enforcement Department either via phone or email.

The Civil Enforcement Team will ask each enquirer a number of screening questions to establish if they qualify for an application. If the applicant qualifies they will be informed of the following prior to the application pack being sent:

- There is a £250 fee payable upon successful application.
- The process is lengthy and can take up to 12 months.
- Any valid blue badge holder may park in the bay, if granted it is not a personal bay.

On successful application Thanet District Council will then mark the bay. For any new bays we follow the guidance set by the [British Parking Association \(BPA\) for sizing of the bays.](#)

Extract from BPAS bay size guidance:

In light of advice received from the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, minimum dimensions are still prescribed for bays reserved for disabled badge holders. These must be a minimum of 6.6 m long, 2.7 m wide, or 3 m wide where placed in the centre of the carriageway. There is an exception for cases where, on account of the nature of traffic using the road, the overall width of the carriageway is insufficient to accommodate a bay of that width.

We are currently undertaking a Disabled Persons Parking Places Audit. Part of this will aid us in establishing any historic bays which may not be of the advisable length. Bay users can also contact the Civil Enforcement Department and request their bay to be extended. These requests are then investigated and extensions granted where required.

Enforcement of Disabled Persons Parking Bays comes under the usual duties of our Civil Enforcement Officers. Our officers are allocated a beat for their shift and they will patrol and enforce the restrictions within their beat during this shift.

We prioritise and focus our enforcement on dangerous and busy areas such as towns, sea fronts and double yellow lines. We do not offer a response service for enforcement and any reports of illegal parking made to the Civil Enforcement Office Team are recorded and communicated to the officers on the ground during office hours. This does not guarantee that an officer will attend as it will depend on their beat and shift.

Reports of illegal parking can be made out of office hours by emailing the Civil Enforcement Team and these will be relayed to the Civil Enforcement Officers once office hours resume and where necessary put in the diary for further visits. Our officers will issue a Penalty Charge Notice to a vehicle which is observed parked in contravention of the following: *'40 Parked in a designated disabled person's parking place without clearly displaying a valid disabled person's badge.'* If no contravention is observed when our officers attend we will not be able to issue a penalty charge notice.