

Dear Sir or Madam

Please find attached a copy of the petition opposing the proposed changes to residents parking permit parking provision in Newcastle. We are saying that we would wish to keep the scheme as it stands

This petition was started by myself and other residents and every single person who we were able to canvass, except two, were opposed to this proposal. It includes the majority of the residents.

We understand that this matter is due to be considered at a council meeting on Monday 22.7.13.

We are opposing it for the following reasons :-

1. One of the residents has highlighted that this would be the equivalent of at least a 20% rise in their council tax given the figures as given to them by the person facilitating this in Stafford.

For example,

If you need 2 permits and visitors permits

i.e.

2 x £50 admin fee - £100 as we advised each applicant has to pay £50 for one permit

2 x £45 each permit - £90

1x visitors permits/vouchers - £33

(24 x 4 hours)

overall cost – £223.00 and visitors are only allowed 4 hours stays. Obviously there would be additional cost if further books have to be purchased.

2. Another resident has pointed out that having to pay for visitors permits is potentially in contravention of human rights legislation as an intrusion into private family life. No one else within Staffordshire has to pay to enable them to have family and friends visiting them by car.

3. Terraced houses rented per room do not qualify as 'multiple occupancy' accommodation.

4. We understand that the borough council are trying to encourage town centre and would like to make Newcastle a vibrant town centre, myself and other residents living here are feeling hounded and are wanting to leave because of this even though we have lived here for years.

5. I am advised that the council's canvassing for this scheme received a very small response, a large number of which were opposed to the proposal and therefore the council do not have a mandate for these changes.

6. In the Garden street, Well Street area residents may resort to parking on Bankside, by Newcastle under Lyme High school causing additional parking and traffic problems for the school and market traders who park their vans here while working in the town.

7. Vulnerable people will have to pay from limited incomes for their carers and visitors to have permits. See the comment by Pat at No. 74 who comments that she has lived here for 75 years.

8. We feel we are being singled out and penalised as other areas of Newcastle borough receive services which town centre residents do not, with no extra cost.

9. One of the only two residents who has decided not to sign the petition said she had been advised that the council would provide no residents parking at all if this scheme was opposed by residents. Myself and other residents view this as bullying.

10. The same resident expressed the view that the council are stating that they are not raising council tax but are instead moving to make residents pay additional costs for the services already provided, and therefore this scheme is a just a start. Something which we, as residents, are strongly opposed to.

We would therefore request a meeting with the relevant people to consider this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Louise Wilson,
on behalf of the residents who are signatory's to the petition.
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c.c.

Graham Williams – Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council

Traci Lunn – Highways, Staffordshire County council

Kevin Smith – Highways Traffic Regulations Manager

Paul Farrelly – MP

Elizabeth Shenton – Councillor

Stephen McLean Sweeney – County Councillor