

Advisory disabled parking bay policy

The guidelines for the installation of advisory disabled bays were drawn up in 1992 by the former Highway Authority, Avon County Council, following the recommendations of the Joint Advisory Committee for Physically Handicapped People.

These guidelines followed consultations with representatives of people with a mobility impairment and were considered and approved by the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee.

The Committee resolved that the guidelines for installation of advisory disabled parking bays be modified as follows:

- a) The applicant must be the holder of a Blue Badge
- b) The applicant must normally be the regular driver of the vehicle, or ready access to the vehicle for the Blue Badge holder is essential
- c) There should be a considerable demand upon on-street parking
- d) The applicant shall have no reasonable facility for off-street parking

These guidelines have subsequently been adopted by South Gloucestershire Council in dealing with the large number of applications which are received every year.

Disabled parking bays are advisory only and so it is considered imperative that the facility does not become too widespread and result in them being ignored by other motorists.

Advisory disabled parking bay applications

Sadly we occasionally receive fraudulent applications. Therefore we check applications thoroughly before we can approve a bay.

What we check

- That your Blue Badge number is genuine, it has been issued to you and that it has not expired.
- The address at which you are applying for a bay matches the records held by the authority that issued your Blue Badge. If you have recently moved house, please tell the issuer of your Blue Badge before you apply for a disabled parking bay.
- Your household has a car. We do this by checking the address on your insurance schedule (please do not send original documents). We check that the insurance is

still valid and what your insurance says about where the car is kept.

- If you have off street parking. We do this using aerial photographs and sometimes will visit the site to investigate further.
- Whether the area in which you would like a disabled bay is public highway. If it is not public highway but is owned by another section of the council we will pass your application to them. If it is owned by Merlin Housing, we will pass your application to them. If it is private land that does not fall into the above categories, we will return the application to you as we can only install disabled bays on land that we own.
- Whether it is safe and legal to provide you with a disabled bay. We cannot install a bay that contravenes the Highway Code. This means that we cannot approve a bay that is opposite or within 10 metres of a junction, on a bend, wholly or partially on the footway, in a narrow road where it would obstruct the passage of service vehicles, in a turning head, or where there are waiting restrictions (yellow lines or limited waiting).
- If the area that you would like a bay is outside a neighbour's property, we will consult with them before making a decision. If agreement cannot be reached it will not be possible to provide a bay.

Why we do this

We need to carry out these checks to ensure that applications meet the criteria and disabled parking bays are provided fairly and equally to South Gloucestershire residents.

Timescales

We receive in excess of 150 disabled parking bay applications per year. To check each application takes time. Please ensure that you provide all relevant information, as if you don't, we will have to write back to you and this will inevitably delay your application. However, as long as you have provided all the necessary documentation, your application meets our policy and there are no other issues, you should hear from us within 3 weeks of the receipt of your application.