

For the cost of a permit, £132 per annum, residents of this area do not get a guaranteed parking space or any guaranteed parking at all. It is particularly unfair to residents of Exbourne Road and Edward Street who have no driveways or alternative parking and have to park on the street. The idea of purchasing 2 permits per household would not be realistic as there is only room for 1 car per house in both these streets. The parking situation is not dire enough to introduce permits and we have learned to live with it. No evidence has been provided by the County Council as to the issues, if any, caused by non-residents', shoppers', commuters' or school parking. How come we were not informed at the Autumn 2024 Consultation that there would be a cost for the permits and restrictive visitor parking? Had this been disclosed from the beginning there would have been an overwhelming rejection as in this consultation.

The arguments for it being to introduce a more environmental friendly area and encourage more people to cycle or take public transport are unrealistic. This is not London with an efficient transport system. Rather it is a more rural area where people have no option but to rely on a car to get to places that are inaccessible or too time consuming to get to by bus. There is no train station in Abingdon. The maximum of 50 visitor permits is unrealistic without consideration to normal healthy human needs. Consider friends and family stays, relatives tending to the sick or helping out, grandchildren visiting to be cared for or parents coming to do childcare. Weekday – not SUNDAY, visits from window cleaners, plumbers, gardeners, fencers, appliance repair engineers, chimney sweeps etc. If you add all this up over a year the meagre 50 visitor permits would be unworkable. My 90 year old neighbour has a cleaner coming to her by car once a week. This obviously would use up all her annual allowance of visitor permits. How can an old person be expected to do without visitors?

Trades people and contractors who will need to apply for permits will be easily put off by having to apply themselves. This has actually happened in other permit restricted areas. We have many Victorian buildings in this area that need more general maintenance than regular homes: scaffolding, roof and chimney repair, rising damp correction etc etc. Such work is essential and maintains the heritage of Abingdon. It is hard enough as it is to get these people with nowadays demand, to say nothing of the added costs of £31.50 being added to our bills.

We should be aiming to keep the community happy and we have a friendly neighbourhood where everyone helps each other. With this scheme we are encouraged to report cars parked without a permit on our streets to Trellints Control Room using Oxfordshire County Council's daily update. This kind of behaviour will cause animosity and will have a negative effect on our neighbourhood. If the proposal goes through, the parking from Spring Road and other visitors will shift onto Winterborne Road, Cemetary Road and Spring Gardens and which will cause overparking there. The customers and employees of Dawsons Hair Salon rely on neighbouring streets for parking. If the restrictions come in what will happen to the Salon? – probably won't survive like many other businesses in Abingdon who have suffered from the town centre parking reduction of 2 hours free parking down to one. Please increase this back to 2 hours and fix the multi-storey carpark.

Finally, there is mentioned in the proposal that 'residents of specified properties within Park Road will be able to apply for annual residents parking permits'. Are you referring to Nos. 4, 44, 46 and 54-60 Park Road, who have been included inside the Abingdon Ock Street area? Why have these properties been included, and why have they not got residents' parking rights on Park Road? There is plenty of space on Park Road, and the residents there do not pay for their on-street parking. I would like to see Oxfordshire County Council make the effort to obtain more space rather than charge the residents of this area for already available space. It would be simply a matter of getting our cars registered to be able to park there. I respectfully ask that these proposals be dropped and to please in view of the overwhelming objections, never raise them again.

