



The Association of British Drivers

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Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release

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PERMIT PARKING CHARGES IN LONDON

Many London residents are facing increases in permit parking charges, and it would appear from our analysis of parking charges (see "Profiting from Parking" on this web page: www.freedomfordrivers.org/Parking.htm) that some London councils are already probably breaching the law. Permit parking charges should in essence only be used to cover administrative and enforcement costs, not be a "general revenue" raising measure.

Barnet residents have been outraged by Barnet Council's huge increase in the cost of Residents Parking Permits and Visitor's Vouchers. They are so angry that they have decided to take legal action. David Attfield, a Barnet resident and a solicitor himself, has volunteered to go to the High Court for a Judicial Review on behalf of the group that has been formed to fight a campaign on this issue. The action seeks to set aside the proposed price rises.

In the case of Barnet, the proposed charges are an increase of 250% in some cases, making them much more expensive than other London boroughs.

What is the basis of the claim? Namely that the council is raising permit parking charges to enable it to cover other costs. For example, the Council Leader's response to public questions on this subject at a Cabinet meeting on the 14th February was to say repeatedly that "*the increased charges are necessary to ensure sufficient investment in the council's road network*". It is clear that the increased charges are being used to fund general street maintenance, not for operation of the permit parking scheme. This is not consistent with a previous legal judgment in the Camden LBC/Cran case.

More information on the campaign is present on this blog page: <http://barnetcpz.blogspot.com/>. They need to raise £15,000 to cover their prospective legal costs so donations would be welcomed.

The ABD encourages you to support this campaign even if you live in other London boroughs. Only if London Borough Councils realise that they should not be abusing the law, and setting permit parking levels that are too high and unaffordable for many, will these developments be halted. Please donate urgently as they need more funds to fight this issue.

Contact

For more information contact Roger Lawson on 020-8467-295-0378.

About The Association of British Drivers (ABD)

The ABD is the leading independent organisation which represents the interests of private motorists in the United Kingdom. We campaign to protect the rights of individual road users and believe that road transport is a beneficial and essential element in the UK transport infrastructure. We oppose excessive taxation of motorists and are against tolls and road usage charging. We also campaign for more enlightened road safety policies. The Association is a "not for profit" voluntary organisation which is financially supported primarily by its individual members. More information on the ABD is available from our web site at www.freedomfordrivers.org