**Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)**

In February 2017, Gwent Police confirmed in writing to all five Gwent Local Authorities that they intended “to withdraw its officers and staff from activities that involve enforcing parking restrictions”.

Gwent is the only area of Wales where the local authorities have not taken on these powers and involves the transfer of powers from the police forces to local authorities.

As a result, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen Councils are all in the process of taking on Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE).

The advantages of introducing CPE in the Blaenau Gwent county borough include control over where, when and how parking in the county borough is controlled, therefore enabling more flexible service provision where needed, improving compliance with parking restrictions and reducing congestion.

**Your questions answered**

**What is Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)?**

CPE involves the transfer of powers from the Police to the local authority. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is taking over parking enforcement duties from Gwent Police.

**When will the change happen?**

The Council will take responsibility for CPE from Monday 1st July 2019.

**Who is responsible until that date?**

Responsibility for parking enforcement will remain with Gwent Police until the changeover date.

**Why make the change?**

The transfer of powers will allow the Council to provide a coordinated and consistent approach to the enforcement of traffic regulations and will help improve road safety, traffic flow and reduce obstructions.

**Does CPE happen in other areas?**

Yes - Gwent is currently the only police force area in Wales still responsible for parking enforcement and the transfer of powers to the Council will bring Blaenau Gwent and all other local authorities in Gwent in line with the rest of the country.

**Will we see new wardens patrolling the streets?**

Yes – new Civil Enforcement Officers, on behalf of the Council, will undertake enforcement duties across the Blaenau Gwent County Borough. Initially we will be deploying 2 officers as we roll out the scheme across the area, but this could change in the future.

**What powers will they have?**

The Civil Enforcement Officers will be able to enforce all parking related restrictions on the public highway by issuing a Penalty Charge Notice for any vehicle found to be parked unlawfully. These include:

* **Prohibition of Stopping** (i.e. Bus Stops, School Keep Clear markings, Zig-zags on the approaches to pedestrian crossings & rural clearway restrictions)
* **No Waiting, No Waiting & No Loading.**
* **Parking Bays specifically for Limited Waiting, Loading, Taxis, Disabled Persons, Doctors, Police, Funeral Directors Vehicles and Permit holders.**

They will also be able to issue Penalty Charge notices for:

* **vehicles parked across dropped kerbs**
* **vehicles parked more than 50cm away from the kerb**
* **vehicles parked other than in accordance with the car park regulations in Council owned car parks**

**Will there be any restrictions that Civil Enforcement Officers can’t enforce?**

Yes - Gwent Police will continue to enforce the following:

* All moving traffic offences (i.e. weight limits, prohibition of driving except for access, prohibition of right turn/U turn manoeuvres, No Entry, one-way, speed limits etc.) Cases of obstruction to moving traffic (e.g. yellow box junctions).
* Dangerous parking.
* Parking on pedestrian crossing zig-zags where the police can issue a fine resulting in points on your licence. (Please note, our CEOs can also issue PCNs for vehicles parked on pedestrian crossing zig-zags)
* Footway parking where no yellow lines are present.
* Driving over footways.

The Police will also carry out enforcement where security or other traffic policing issues are involved.

**How much will the fine be?**

The Penalty Charge Notice will be £70, reduced to £35 if paid within 14 days for the most serious contraventions (and is £50 and £25 respectively for lesser contraventions).

**What happens to the money?**

Legislation states that any surplus money created through Civil Parking Enforcement will be reinvested in the highway and transportation network.

**Is there an appeals process?**

Yes – If you wish to challenge a Penalty Charge Notice, there will be a formal appeal procedure to follow. Details about this will be communicated at the time of the changeover (and will be available on the PCN itself and on this website)

**Will the Civil Enforcement Officers target certain locations?**

Civil Enforcement Officers will help to ensure safe, vibrant communities for residents and businesses, so resources will be targeted in key areas such as town centres, outside schools and other known hotspots, as well as residential areas.

**Will Civil Enforcement Officers be given target numbers of PCNs to issue?**

It is illegal to set targets for the issue of parking tickets, and the resulting enforcement would have a significant adverse impact on the Council’s reputation.

**Are there any allowances for blue badge holders?**

Blue badge holders are permitted to park in any of the following on-street locations for an unlimited period of time, unless signs say otherwise:

* Designated disabled parking bays
* On-street limited waiting parking areas

Blue badge holders are permitted to park on single or double yellow lines (except where there is a ban on loading or unloading) where it would not cause an obstruction or danger to other road users for a period not exceeding three hours.

**Civil Parking Enforcement & Disabled Drivers/Passengers?**

The Blue Badge scheme provides a range of parking benefits for disabled people who travel either as drivers or as passengers. The badge holder must be present for the concessions to apply.

Blue badges must be clearly and properly displayed along with the clock whilst the vehicle is parked on yellow lines.

Failure to correctly display a Blue badge may result in a PCN being issued for the contravention of the relevant parking restriction.

**Providing the Disabled Badge is clearly and properly displayed the Badge Holder can park in:**

•             Designated on-street disabled parking bays - for an unlimited period of time, unless signs say otherwise.

•             Residents parking bays - for a period not exceeding 3 hours.

•             On-street limited waiting parking areas - for a period not exceeding 3 hours unless specified by the Traffic Order and the on-street signage.

•             Double Yellow Lines (where a loading restriction does not apply) - for a period not exceeding 3 hours.  

**\*\*\*Note:** Please note that you can be penalised for parking too close to a junction despite displaying badge whilst on DYL.  Therefore, if you’re parked within 10m of a junction, on DYL or not, you can be penalised, except where there is a designated parking space.  This applies to all vehicles/drivers.

**Disabled Badge Holders are not allowed to park:**

•             Outside of marked bays when parked in any off-street car park.

•             In any area specifically reserved for other vehicles or purpose, (e.g. taxi ranks, bus stops, school keep clear markings, pedestrian crossing zig-zags and anywhere where a loading restriction applies)

•             In bays reserved for permit holders only.

Parking with a Blue Badge must always be in accordance with the current Blue Badge Scheme guidance, which can be found at [www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)