

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)?

The management and enforcement of on-street and off-street (Council Car Parks) parking.

When will Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council take on this service?

1st August 2012.

Why are the Police giving up their enforcement role?

It allows the Police to concentrate their resources on their core priorities.

What are the benefits of Civil Parking Enforcement?

- Encourages sensible and safe parking;
- Improves conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and the disabled community;
- Improves the general flow of traffic;
- Improves the general environment;
- Reduces parking problems in and around schools and town centres;
- Prevents emergency and public service vehicles from finding their routes blocked.

What changes will the public see?

- An increased enforcement presence on the streets to keep traffic flowing;
- Improved enforcement at priority locations e.g. disabled and resident parking spaces.

What is a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN)?

A Penalty Charge Notice will be issued to a motorist, by placement on the windscreen of the vehicle, or by handing to the driver of the vehicle, for failure to comply with parking regulations either on-street or off-street in council car parks.

The notice will contain details of the vehicle, the contravention and how to pay or challenge.

How much will a PCN cost the motorist?

National legislation has introduced differential levels of parking penalties depending on the seriousness of the offence with penalties for higher level offences being £70 and lower level offences being £50.

A 50% reduction applies if the penalty is paid within 14 days reducing the charge to £35 or £25.

How can the motorist avoid getting a PCN?

- Always check the lines on the road and any signs.
- Always park within bay markings.
- Follow the regulations in car parks.
- Do not park on yellow lines.
- Do not block dropped kerbs.
- Do not park more than 50cm away from the kerb.
- Do not park on a footpath.
- Do not park on pedestrian crossings, white zig zags or “school keep clear” markings.
- Do not park in a residents parking area without a valid permit.
- Do not park in a reserved bay (e.g. disabled bay) unless entitled to.

How can the motorist challenge a PCN?

- A challenge must be made in writing within 14 days of the PCN issue date.
- Challenges cannot be made verbally.
- The option to pay at a 50% discount will be held open until a challenge has been considered and a decision is made.
- If a motorist is unhappy with the result of a challenge, a formal appeal can be lodged with The Traffic Penalty Tribunal, the national parking appeals adjudication service. This further appeal to the Tribunal must be made within 14 days of the rejection of the original challenge.

What happens if the motorist ignores a PCN?

The PCN will not go away and needs to be dealt with. The cost of the PCN will increase to either £105.00 or £75.00 if not paid within 28 days of a notice to owner being issued to the keeper of the vehicle or if a challenge is not made.

Further delay in dealing with the PCN will lead to action by Bailiffs, with their costs added to the civil debt.

Will vehicles be clamped or removed?

No, the council does not intend to introduce the use of clamping when the new scheme starts in August 2012.

We believe it is an unnecessary measure, although powers will be provided to the council that will allow us to clamp a vehicle should we feel it absolutely necessary.

Similarly, we do not feel it necessary to undertake the removal of unlawfully parked vehicles. Again, the Council will have the power to do so and may, as a method of last resort, do so where there may be a safety hazard and a danger to other road users.

Is this a fund raising exercise?

No, the purpose the scheme is to encourage motorists to comply with parking legislation. *It is not about raising revenue.* Any surplus money generated must, by law, be used to fund local highway improvements.

What role will the Police have in parking enforcement?

The Police will continue to enforce footway parking, obstructions and any moving traffic offences.

What will Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) do?

The role of the council's Civil Enforcement Officers will be to patrol the streets of Rhondda Cynon Taff. Their primary role will be to encourage considerate parking by taking appropriate action (the issue of PCNs) against unlawfully parked vehicles, so that other drivers and pedestrians can go about their daily business with minimum disruption.

Additional duties of CEOs will include:

- Helping motorists to understand parking rules and park correctly;
- Identifying persistent evaders (motorists who consistently break the rules) and abandoned vehicles;
- Working together with the Police and Neighbourhood Safety Teams to keep the streets safe and secure;
- Reporting signs and parking equipment that require attention;
- Monitoring immobile objects in parking bays (e.g. skips) to check they are in compliance with their licence;

Top Tips to avoid a fine...

- Park Right!
- Don't park where yellow lines, waiting, or loading restrictions are in force;
- Always read the road signs, they tell you what restrictions apply;
- Only park in loading bays if you are loading / unloading goods;
- Only park in bays reserved for disabled badge holders or residents if you are entitled to do so;
- Make sure you have paid and displayed in a car park.