



On-street parking permits for businesses

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1. Key messages

- Thirty-seven responses to the survey were received, of these 65% were from businesses in Warwick District and 30% from businesses in Stratford-on-Avon District
- Two-thirds of respondents strongly supported the introduction of business permits.
- Of the 19% that did not support business permits, increased difficulties in parking for customers and residents was the main reason.

Respondents that supported the introduction of permits or were unsure (n=30) were asked further questions:

- A third of respondents had a preference for non-vehicle specific parking permits.
- Three quarters of respondents agreed that business permit restrictions should be for those businesses who do not have any off-street parking of their own.
- Over three quarters of respondents agreed that business permits should restrict the type of vehicle that can use them to small vans and cars.
- Over three quarters of respondents felt that there should be a restriction to either one or two business parking permits per business.
- Further comments identified the key themes of free parking permits, the idea of loading zone parking permits, permits specific to vehicles, parking issues associated with permits and that the cost of permits should be considered.

2. Background

Warwickshire County Council is responsible for the management of on-street parking within the county, which includes the issuing and administration of parking permits, mainly to residents and their visitors.

The council would like to help the county recover from the effects of COVID-19 and help businesses in Warwickshire recover. A proposed way of doing this is by making parking easier for businesses with the introduction of business permits to allow parking on-street. These permits would authorise a vehicle to park at any time in areas where waiting restrictions are currently in place, such as limited waiting, residents permit zones or pay and



display areas. Only those businesses with premises currently located within residents permit zones would be eligible to apply for business permits for use within that zone only.

3. Methods

An online survey was developed and hosted on the Citizen Space 'Ask Warwickshire' webpage (<https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/>) to gather the views of businesses on the introduction of business permits to allow on-street parking for business use.

The link to the survey was distributed in Warwickshire to BID companies, Chambers of Trade, Federation of Small Businesses for inclusion in their email and Facebook distribution lists. The survey was live between the 20th September 2021 and 18th October 2021.

4. Results

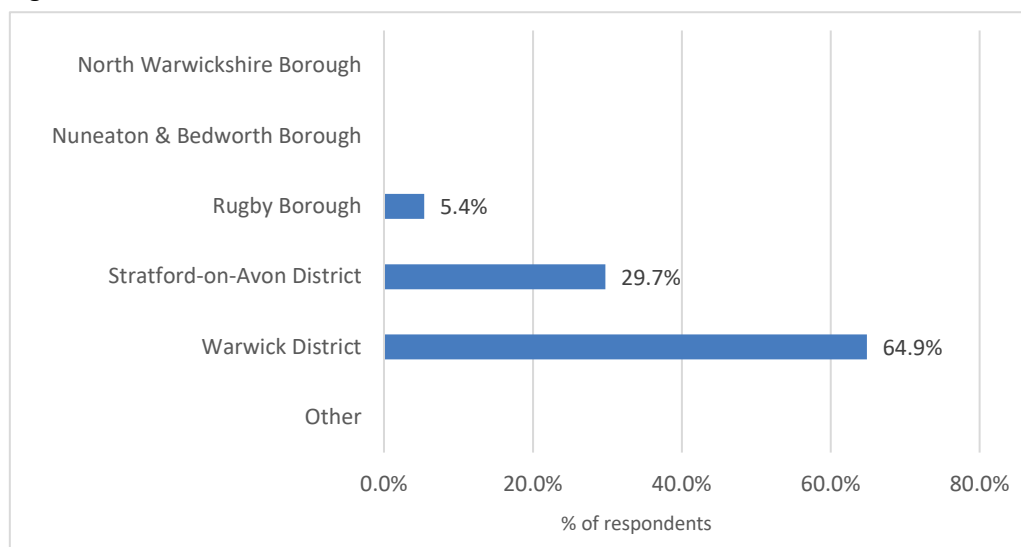
A total of 37 responses to the online survey were received.

3.1 Survey – Respondent Profile

Location of respondents

As per Figure 1 below the highest level of responses were from businesses in the Warwick District, a total of 64.9% (n=24). Businesses within Stratford-on-Avon District were responsible for a further 29.7% of responses (n=11) followed by Rugby Borough (5.4%, n=2). There were no responses from businesses in North Warwickshire Borough and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough.

Figure 1: Location of businesses





Main area of business trade

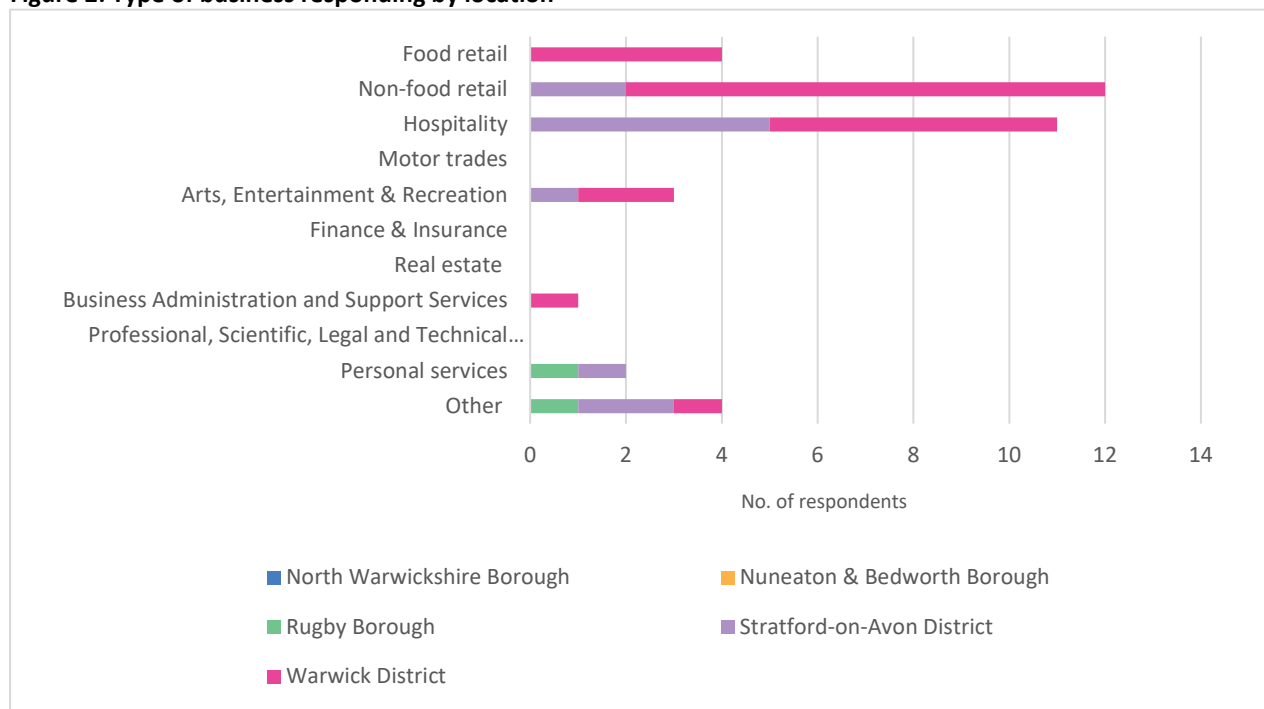
A large proportion of responses were from businesses that were 'Non-food retail' (32.4%, n=12) and 'Hospitality' (29.7%, n=11) (Table 1).

Table 1: Type of business of respondents

Type of business	Count	%
Food retail	4	10.8%
Non-food retail	12	32.4%
Hospitality	11	29.7%
Motor trades	0	0.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	3	8.1%
Finance & Insurance	0	0.0%
Real estate	0	0.0%
Business Administration and Support Services	1	2.7%
Professional, Scientific, Legal and Technical Services	0	0.0%
Personal services	2	5.4%
Other	4	10.8%

Figure 2 shows the type of business by district/borough of business; 'non-food retail' responses were highest within Warwick District (27.0%, n=10). Hospitality within Warwick District (16.2%, n=6) and Stratford-on-Avon (13.5%, n=5) was the second highest type of business. Responses in the 'Other' category included a dental surgery, a healthcare clinic and two residents. The two residents were within the Stratford-on-Avon District.

Figure 2: Type of business responding by location





3.2 Analysis of business permits

Respondents were asked if they would be supportive of the introduction of business permits to allow on-street parking for business use in streets where waiting restrictions are in place. In total, 67.5% of respondents (n=25) strongly supported the introduction of business permits, 8.1% (n=3) partly supported, 18.9% (n=7) strongly opposed and 5.4% (n=2) were not sure or didn't know. Of those that strongly opposed five were within Warwick District and two within Stratford-on-Avon District

Figure 3: Support to the introduction of business permits

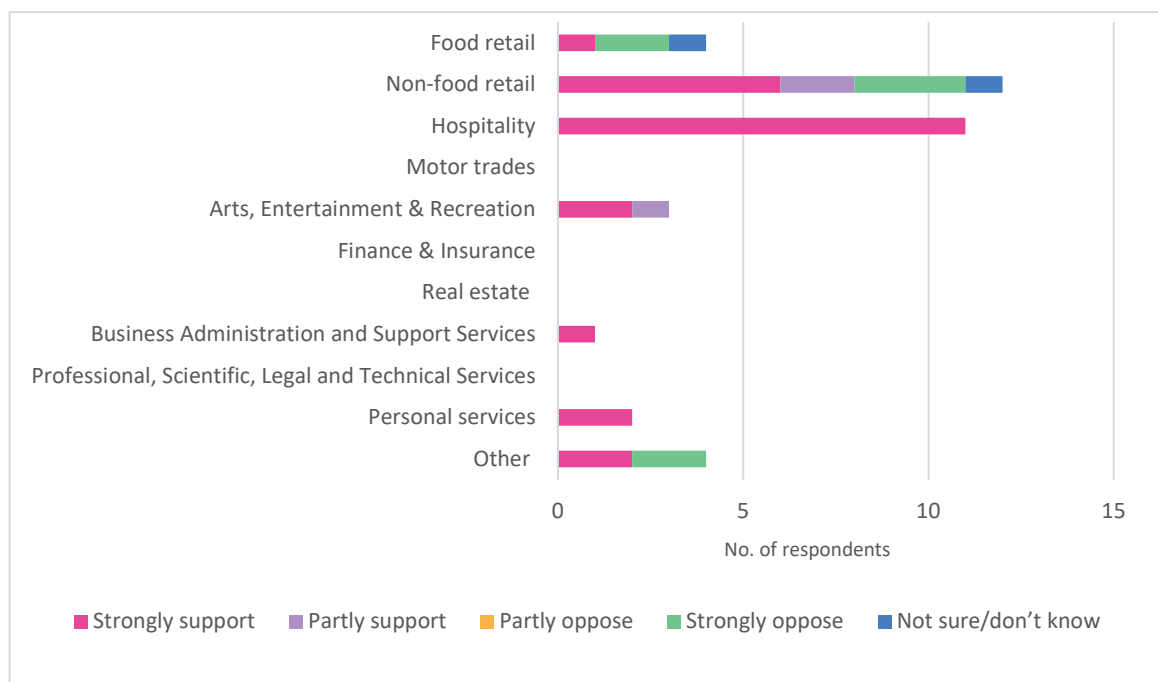


Figure 3 shows that all respondents within the hospitality area strongly supported the introduction of business permits (29.7%, n= 11). Respondents that strongly opposed were within food retail (5.4%, n=2), non-food retail (8.1%, n=3) and other (5.4%, n=2). Within the 'other' category the two respondents that strongly opposed were residents.

Following on respondents were asked what their reasons were if they did not support on street parking permits. Responses were received from businesses in the Warwick District (n=5) and Stratford-on-Avon District (n=2), with the following key themes identified as below.

Warwick District

Customer parking difficulties

"If businesses are using on street parking spaces, this reduces availability for customers to park.... The result was that customers couldn't park and took their business elsewhere."
(Non-food retail)



"We see a real issue that once a customer has a problem finding a car park space this puts them off coming to Warwick - they will go to a different town where parking is 'perceived' as being easier." (Non-food retail)

Local resident parking difficulties

"I am a local resident in the area of my business, and it is already difficult enough to park in W2 with my residents pass I often have to go and move my car in the morning if i cant find a space at night and I wouldn't want to be struggling to find a space too in the daytime as now its full with business permits." (Food retail)

Stratford-on-Avon District

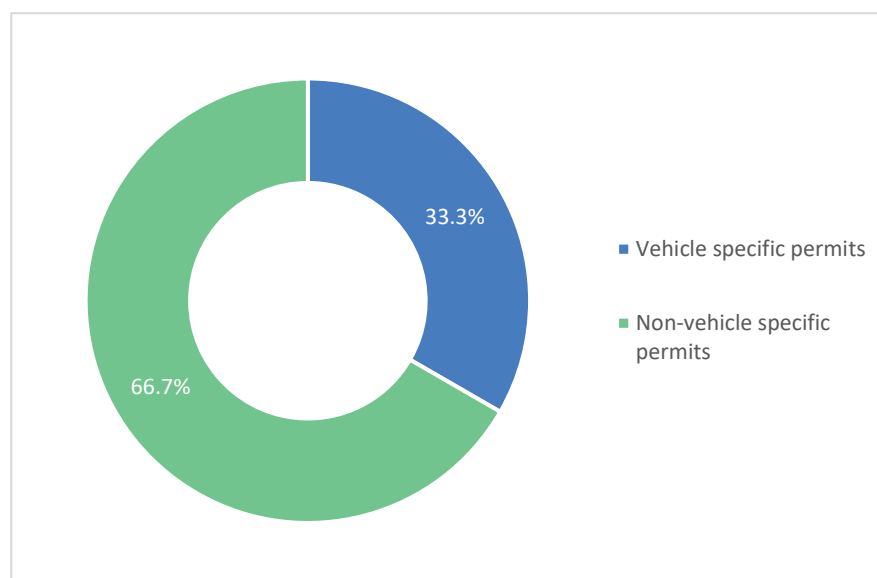
Limited parking spaces for permit holders

"There are already limited parking spaces for permit holders who despite paying to park, are not guaranteed parking. Permits are just another form of tax." (Residential)

"There are insufficient parking spaces, and these should be given to residents as a priority. Despite paying for a permit, you aren't guaranteed a parking space so therefore the charge is just another form of tax." (Residential)

Respondents were then asked their preference if a scheme was introduced, as presented in Figure 4 below. Non-vehicle specific permits (i.e. which would allow either employees or guests / visitors to use the permit) had the highest proportion of responses (66.7%, n= 20). Thirty-three per cent (n=10) had a preference for vehicle specific permits (i.e. which would restrict usage to one vehicle).

Figure 4: Preference of options if a scheme was introduced



Respondents were asked for their thoughts on restricting business parking permits to businesses who do not have any off-street parking of their own. Table 2 shows that 70.0%



(n=21) of respondents were in agreement with this. Seven respondents (23.3%) were not in agreement with these restrictions and 6.7% (n=2) were not sure or did not know.

Table 2: Do you think that business permits should be restricted to businesses which do not have any off-street parking of their own?

	Count	%
Yes	21	70.0%
No	7	23.3%
Not sure/ Don't know	2	6.7%

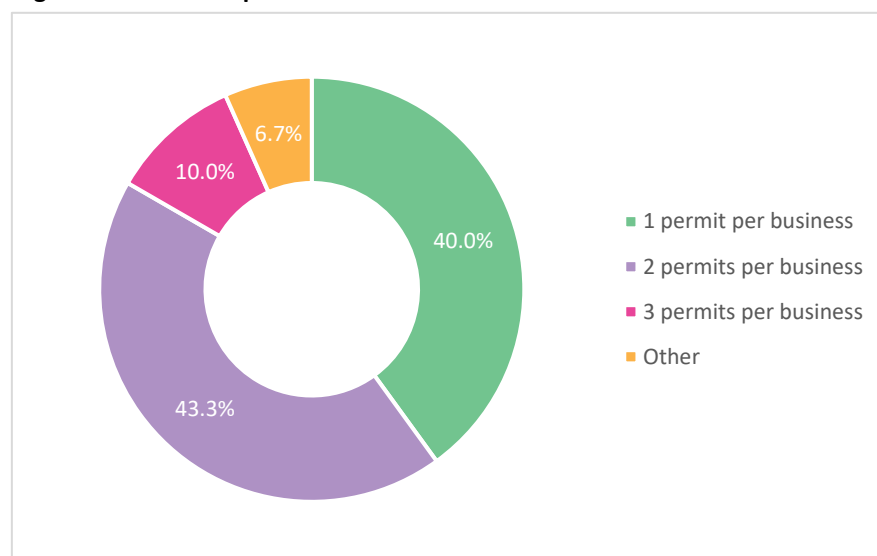
Following on respondents were asked if they agreed that business permits should restrict the type of vehicle that can use them to small vans and cars. The highest number of respondents were in agreement with this (86.7%, n=26), as per Table 3. Four respondents disagreed with this (13.3%)

Table 3: Do you agree that business permits should restrict the type of vehicle that can use them to small vans and cars?

	Count	%
Yes	26	86.7%
No	4	13.3%

Respondents were asked how many permits they thought businesses should be restricted to. Figure 5 presents the responses and highlights that the highest number of respondents felt restrictions should be either 1 permit per business (40.0%, n= 12) or 2 permits per business (43.3%, n= 13). Within the 'other' category respondents commented that it should be dependent on the size of the business.

Figure 5: Number of permit restrictions





Other comparable local authorities charge an annual fee which can be up to £350 per permit. Respondents were asked what they felt a reasonable charge is, as presented in Table 4 below. A large proportion of respondents did not answer this question (20.0%, n=6), however of those that did respond there was a range of thoughts in terms of charges.

Table 4: Reasonable annual fee charge per permit

	Count	%
£0	1	3.3%
£25	1	3.3%
£50	2	6.7%
£100	3	10.0%
£150	3	10.0%
£200	4	13.3%
£250	4	13.3%
£300	3	10.0%
£350	3	10.0%
Not answered	6	20.0%

Respondents were asked if they had any other comments they wanted to share. Comments were received from respondents from Warwick District and Stratford-on-Avon District as presented below.

Warwick District

Free parking permit

"It would be wonderful to park all day free near my shop, but it would stop many customers each day from parking for a short period." (Non-food retail)

"Any person named on council tax as owning a business property should be allowed a free permit anyway. Residential owners have this right as they own the property so should freehold business owners." (Dental Surgery)

"I think this is a marvellous development and will save me about an hour a day... A business permit will make so much difference!" (Hospitality)

Loading zone parking permit

"What might help is a loading zone for specify businesses at the top and the bottom of Smith street that people can use without fear of getting a ticket. Restrict it to 5/10 min. Maybe a loading zone permit for these businesses on the street" (Food retail)

Vehicle specific permits

"Each permit should show the registration of the vehicle for which its intended." (Hospitality)



Parking issues

"In our area, Old Square, Warwick, there are a number of micro-businesses in the offices on the higher floors of at least one of the buildings. Should all apply for a permit it may cause problems for space to park." (Hospitality)

Stratford-on-Avon District

Cost of permit

"Not to make it too expensive as some staff may not be able to afford it and may only be on small contracts with their company." (Non-food retail)