

BLUE BADGE

This briefing is produced as part of the Building Capacity Project by AVDC's Lynne Maddocks. Contact on 01296 585364 or lmaddocks@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk for more information.

NOVEMBER 2011



Disabled persons' car badges

The blue badge scheme offers parking concessions for disabled people. It is administered on behalf of the government by Bucks County Council (BCC).

Eligibility

The Department for Transport guidelines state you automatically qualify for a blue badge if:

- you receive the higher rate of the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance
- you receive a War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement or have a letter from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) confirming that you have been assessed as having a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or considerable difficulty in walking?
- you use a motor vehicle supplied for disabled people by a Government Health Department
- you have severe difficulties with walking
- you are registered as totally blind (not partially sighted)
- you have a severe disability in both upper limbs, regularly drive a motor vehicle but cannot turn the steering wheel of a motor vehicle by hand even if that wheel is fitted with a turning knob.

BCC also have some discretionary criteria. You may qualify if you have a permanent and substantial disability, which means you are unable to walk or have very considerable difficulty in walking.

Evidence must be provided. Badges can take 6 weeks to issue as they may need to contact your Doctor before making a decision. Please note, you don't need to contact your doctor as part of the application process, they will contact your doctor directly if they need to.

You can find the application form at http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/sites/bcc/transport/blue_badge.page or phone 01296 382902 in office hours and staff will check your eligibility and take you through the form.

You can get more information about the Blue Badge scheme from <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/MotoringAndTransport/Bluebadgescheme>

If you are a driver and your disability is likely to affect your ability to drive (even if your car is adapted), the law says you must tell the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). You can write to them at DVLA, Swansea SA99 1TU, or phone 0300 790 6806 or you can email them at drivers.dvla@gtnet.gov.uk. Their website address is www.dvla.gov.uk

Holding a Blue Badge does not in itself mean that you do not have to pay road tax, but you may be exempt if you meet certain other criteria set by the DVLA. Contact them to find out more.

The Blue Badge is recognised throughout the European Union.

Blue Badge holders may be exempt from payment of tolls at certain river crossings.

Blue Badge holders do not have to pay the London Congestion Charge. To get the discount you must register with Transport for London at least ten days before your journey and pay a one-off £10 registration fee. <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/congestioncharging/6736.aspx> or 0845 900 1234

You might also want to contact:

- 1) Disabled Motoring UK, the charity for disabled drivers, passengers & Blue Badge holders. They can be contacted at National Headquarters, Ashwellthorpe, Norwich, NR16 1EX or 01508 489449 or info@disabledmotoring.org
- 2) Motability, a charity that operates a scheme to provide vehicles, wheelchairs and powered scooters to disabled people in the UK. www.motability.co.uk 0845 456 4566