

PRESS RELEASE FROM HERTS COUNTY COUNCIL

Changes to Blue Badge system

Please see below for changes that have been made to the Blue Badge system:

The Department for Transport has reformed the Blue Badge parking scheme for disabled people. The changes came into force earlier this month (2 January 2012) and the new style badges will be issued from now on. The new badges incorporate high technology fraud prevention features which, together with further checks on Blue Badge applicants, will help to reduce fraud and misuse. The cost of a Blue Badge has increased to £10 per badge.

As a result of the changes to the system Hertfordshire County Council has amended its application form. A link to the new form – and guidance notes – is available on our website:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/adult/supphcs/disparkbadge/applybb/>

Please destroy any copies of the old form you may have in your teams and direct people to the new form on our website. The new form can be downloaded, printed and submitted by post if preferred but the easiest way to apply for a new badge is via our website www.hertsdirect.org/bluebadge

People without access to the internet can visit any Hertfordshire library where staff will be able to assist with online applications. Internet access and help with getting online can also be booked through local libraries. People can also call the county council on 0300 123 40 42 to ask for a paper application form if they prefer.

A Blue Badge is valid for up to three years and gives on-street parking concessions to disabled people, either as a driver or passenger.