

Waiting Restrictions and Parking

Q: How are parking restrictions enforced?

A: The Council's Parking Services Team are informed of any new restrictions and will enforce them as and when required.

Q: How can I report an illegally parked car?

A: To report a vehicle that is illegally parked please email parklegally@southglos.gov.uk or telephone 01454 868000 during office hours.

For example:

- parking on double yellow lines
- parking on a single yellow line when restrictions are in place
- parking over a dropped tactile kerb or any dropped kerb on a pedestrian footpath

The police should be contacted via their non-emergency '101' telephone number for:

- parking on the pavement
- obstruction

You can also find more information regarding parking by following the link below:

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/parking/parking-enforcement-and-fines/>

Q: What is the difference between a double yellow line and a single yellow line?

A: A double yellow line means no waiting at any time 24/7 whereas single yellow lines mean no waiting at any time during prescribed hours. The prescribed hours will be shown on nearby upright signs or on entry signs to a controlled parking zone.

Q: If double yellow lines are installed outside my house how am I going to be able to get things delivered to my house?

A: It is legal to stop to load or unload or while passengers board or alight. This is providing that there are no loading restrictions in place which are indicated by single or double kerb flashes.

Q: How long can a vehicle wait to pick someone up on double yellow lines?

A: Double yellow lines mean; no waiting at any time. This means that vehicles should not wait for passengers to arrive and get into the vehicle, the passengers should be ready to enter the vehicle as soon as it stops.

Q: How long can a vehicle load/unload on double yellow lines?

A: You can load or unload for as long as necessary, however, there is a general expectation that loading or unloading will not take longer than 20 minutes. The activity must be continuous and ongoing, the vehicle must not be left alone (or parked) for long periods of time. Loading or unloading is not permitted where a loading ban exists which will be indicated by kerb flashes/blips and/or a sign. These same rules apply in Restricted Parking Zones.

Q: Can we have a residents' permit scheme?

A: There are several criteria that need to be met before a residents permit scheme can be offered. For example, normally 50% of dwellings should have no off street parking, i.e. a garage and/or driveway. If an area does not meet the criteria then unfortunately a residents permit scheme will not be an option. The full criteria are listed in the Council's residents parking policy which can be found here: <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/documents/Residents-Parking-Policy.pdf>

Q: Where there are limited waiting restrictions proposed with a no return time, (e.g. 2 hours no return within 4 hours), how wide an area is covered under the 'return'?

A: The return period generally covers all of the bays on a particular road only. For example, someone could park on road A for 2 hours, but would not be able to return to any bay on that road for 4 hours, regardless of which side of the road it is on. However, they would be able to park in a bay on road B or C which is adjacent to road A and covered by the same TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) for 2 hours.

Q: Can motorists park behind the new double/single yellow lines, on the pavement or grass verge?

A: Waiting restrictions apply to the whole width of the Public Highway, which in most cases includes the grass verge and pavement, so anyone parking on the grass verge or pavement is contravening the restriction and liable to receive a Penalty Charge Notice.

Q: What is the difference between "no waiting at any time" restrictions, (double yellow lines), and "no waiting at any time on verge or footway", (i.e. a pavement parking ban)?

A: Double yellow lines indicate that you may not park on the whole width of the public highway, (normally the road and the path/verge behind it). A pavement parking ban indicates that you may not park on the pavement, (but may still park on the adjacent road). Outside of London, parking on the pavement is currently not in itself illegal, and so a traffic order may be an appropriate measure in some

locations to prohibit this activity – as parking in this way can sometimes cause an obstruction or have other safety implications.

Q: Why doesn't the Council enforce pavement parking across the whole authority?

A: To be able to enforce pavement parking there needs to be a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in place as well as adequate signage of the restriction. There is currently only one pavement parking TRO in South Gloucestershire which is on High Street, Warmley. (Correct as of January 2020)

Q: Can South Gloucestershire Council issue a ticket to a vehicle causing an obstruction?

A: If there are no restrictions on the road, such as double yellow lines, SGC have no powers to carry out enforcement action. If you feel that a vehicle is causing an obstruction the Police may be able to take action. The best thing to do would be to speak to your local PCSO or call 101.

Q: Someone is parking outside my house! What can I do about it?

A: In law there is no 'right to stop or park' on the public highway as the use of the highway is to pass and repass without let or hindrance. The Highways Authority can explicitly permit on-road parking, for example by introducing parking bays, or simply allow parking by not imposing restrictions such as single or double yellow lines. On-road parking is available to all vehicles (or types of vehicles) and no individual has a right to park in a specific place, for example on the road outside their own property. The Highways Authority has the right to take possession of the highway at any time, including areas commonly used for on-road parking. In these instances there is no obligation in law for the Highways Authority to provide alternative parking. If someone is parking across your driveway, garage or access, this may be classed as an obstruction, please see above for what to do about an obstruction.

Q: Can I park on school keep clear markings outside of school openings times?

A: Possibly. The sign next to the markings will dictate when or if you can park on the markings. For example some will say; **no stopping Mon-Fri 8am-5pm on entrance markings** – this means that you can park on the lines unrestricted at the weekends as well as after 5pm and before 8am, Monday to Friday. In other instances the sign may say **no stopping on entrance markings** – this means that you cannot park on the lines at any time, regardless on whether the school is open. During the operation times not only can you not park on the lines but you must not stop on them all together.

Q: Can we have controlled parking zone in our street?

A: Controlled parking zones are not generally used in South Gloucestershire because where they have been used in the past they have not worked well. This tends to be because people don't notice the parking signs when they drive past them and the nature of a zone dictates that there are no repeater signs within it. Usually people will only look for parking signs when they are ready to park and will look for a sign in that vicinity, with a zone there won't usually be any in sight.

Q: What is a Restricted Parking Zone?

A: A restricted parking zone is an area defined by entry point signs where a 'no waiting restriction' applies.

Conventionally a road with a 'no waiting restriction' would have been defined using single or double yellow lines painted on the carriageway and in the case of single yellow lines the times of operation would be indicated on an upright sign alongside. A no waiting restriction can also be defined using restricted parking zone signs at entry points only, and this may cover an area or zone with more than one road within it.

The operational time of the waiting restriction will be stated on the zone entry signs. If there are no times stated on the signs, this means the restrictions apply at all times.

The entry point signs may also have a supplementary plate which states "except in marked bays". This means that the 'no waiting restriction' does not apply to any bays marked within the zone as typically, these bays will have their own restrictions applied to them for example, limited waiting where you can park for a specified amount of time, "disabled badge holders only" where you may only park if you have a blue badge, or "loading only" where you may park to load and unload a vehicle.

In practice this means that you should not park or wait anywhere within the zone unless it is in a marked bay (you may stop to pick up and drop off passengers or to load and unload in the same manner as if there were double yellow lines present, providing you do not cause an obstruction. If you are parked within a marked bay, you must follow the rules shown on the signs and/or road markings for that particular bay.