

**Meeting of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee
to be held on Wednesday, the 27th April, 2022**

Question submitted by Mr. Bruce Harper

Limerick Travel and Transport Linkage Group would like to know the following;

- When did LCCC last review its policy on disabled parking in the city? Some allocated spaces have been replaced and others are difficult to access.
- What ratios in relation to the allocation of disabled parking spaces are being applied?
- Is there monitoring of the current allocation and if so, what has LCCC learned from its monitoring?
- How has LCCC liaised with disability groups in relation to its policy on parking place allocation for disabled drivers?
- When will the next review take place?

Reply:

Policy\Allocations

Regulations for the provision of disabled persons parking bays are implemented under Article 44 of the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 182/1997). For all planned developments we refer to and are guided by the current County Development Plan (under review) and the recently revised document 'The Irish Wheelchair Association Best Practice Access Guidelines, (4th Edition).

In regard to requests for on-street provision of designated disabled parking spaces (DDPS), these are allocated on a case by case or needs basis following an assessment by our technical team.

Proportion of allocation for disabled parking spaces

For on street parking we have approximately 3500 parking spaces available in Limerick City Centre within which there are 132 designated disabled parking spaces (DDPS). Within this allocation 78 are in the central or core business district. In addition we have provided 73 no. residential disabled parking spaces in the extended urban centre. As DDPS are provided on a

needs basis for on-street warrants, we do not operate based on a minimum proportion unlike that of planned development applications.

Real-time Monitoring – Spacefinder App

In November 2021 Limerick City & County Council was the first Local Authority in Ireland to launch the Spacefinder App. This App uses technology developed by our eParking partners to give real-time availability to users of selected disabled spaces in the City allowing the driver to confirm what spaces are free. We are still in the early stages of this initiative but we hope to expand the technology where the initiative can justify such a measure. The SpaceFinder service, developed by Limerick firm ParkMagic, has been supported and endorsed by the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland (DDAI).

In addition authorised badge holders are entitled to use standard spaces available throughout the city where this is necessary.

Liaison \ Consultation

Limerick City & County Council's approach to provision of disabled parking spaces, provides for the retention or allocation of existing Disabled Parking based on their use. New requests\ applications are considered on a case by case basis and provided in general where a warrant can be justified as close to the desirable location as possible. Existing spaces are retained until or unless their use is no longer warranted or in some cases relocated where a more suitable location is determined.

We engage with representative groups such as DDAI & Irish Wheelchair Association as well as individual citizens\drivers in respect of this service on an ongoing basis and we will continue to do so where improvements can be made to provision of facilities to disabled drivers.

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