

North Kelvin Community Council updated position on the RPZ (summer 2026)

NKCC previously supported the introduction of the RPZ (Restricted Parking Zone) in 2021. This followed extensive engagement and consultation with residents over a number of years, the full details of this are outlined in detail on our website.

The area is densely populated, many residents live in tenemental properties and so street space for parking is limited. Proximity to Glasgow University and the wider West End meant commuter parking caused congestion issues for residents. The adverse effect of vehicle emissions on air quality is also another area of concern and parking restrictions have partially been designed to try and encourage a shift to more environmentally friendly forms of transport.

Since the RPZ was introduced, it has periodically been discussed at NKCC meetings. Views on the RPZ are mixed both amongst community councillors and more widely in the community.

At the June 2026 residents presented a petition supported by 624 residents seeking the following key changes;

1. reduction in operating hours to 8 to 6
2. reduction in the cost of visitor vouchers
3. reduced rates for small businesses
4. free parking on Sundays

NKCC has voted to support this petition for a number of reasons:

1. The current 8 to 10 operating hours for North Kelvin appear to be an outlier compared to other areas of the city and harmonisation with other areas to bring them into line with North Kelvin has not yet happened after nearly 5 years.
2. Visitor vouchers are relatively expensive (now £25 for 5 vouchers, originally £10 when introduced), 3 would be needed to cover a day; for people involved in informal caring arrangements eg grandparents this can be prohibitive.
3. small businesses in particular on Queen Margaret Drive have commented on the prohibitive cost of business permits.
4. We have been made aware of key workers such as nurses and teachers who have not been able to access permits to park for a range of reasons and who cannot realistically use public transport. One example was an adult daughter (nurse) living with parents but not on the Council tax bill, another was a doctor on call using a practice vehicle not registered at his home address.

While NKCC in principle support restrictions on parking as a measure both to ease congestion and improve air quality, we find the current implementation of the RPZ problematic due to the lack of flexibility in the scheme. We would welcome Council consideration and support of the measures set out in the petition as well as additional flexibility and consideration for carers and key public service workers.