

## **THE COPELAND CENTRE CAR PARK**

Some abuse of the parking rules appears to be taking place so it is best for me to remind everyone of the principles set out when we started to use the car park, which still apply today.

Please remember that parking in the town centre is at a premium, some 69 members of our staff who work at the Copeland Centre have to park in the multi-storey car park.

An allegation has been drawn to my attention that members of Enforcement staff have been harassed whilst undertaking their duties in the Copeland Centre car park by Council staff. The members of Enforcement staff are quite rightly doing their job which is to ensure that staff who are entitled to park are able to do so, and to deter other persons from abusing this right.

Spaces coloured white, blue or green are for use by Copeland, Copeland Homes and Department for Work and Pensions staff respectively for which payment is made. Some are used on a rotas basis. The owner of any vehicle that does not display a permit (or if two or more cars allocated to the same space are present) is liable to be fined if parked on one of these bays.

Spaces marked red are for use by departments whose designated staff only may park. Some are used on a rotas basis. The owner of any vehicle that does not display a permit (or if more cars than allocated to the spaces are present), is liable to be fined if parked on one of these bays.

There are a number of visitor bays which are marked as such – these are for the public or people visiting the Council, Copeland Homes or the DWP on a short stay basis. The permits are for up to two hours. Members also have permits that entitle them to park on these bays. Anyone parking a vehicle on one of these bays for more than two hours or without a permit, or with an altered permit is liable to be fined.

Any one visiting the Council Centre, including from other Council offices will have to make their own arrangements in respect of parking. If using a public car park they will have to pay the fee and claim the cost back as an expense. This also applies to Members where they are unable to use one of the visitor spaces at the Council Centre.

The private bays should only be used by those specifically entitled to do so, and the disabled parking bays should only be used by vehicles required by disabled persons displaying an authentic disability card in their vehicles.

If you see a member of the public parking incorrectly please politely advise them to obtain a permit from reception if they are visiting the premises. If you are concerned that abuse of parking is taking place contact the enforcement section. Enforcement are considering improvements to the signage and notices on the pay machines.

If we all adopt a responsible attitude we should be able to overcome these problems.