

Odd Down Coach Park Q&A – updated March 2018

Why are changes necessary to the existing city centre coach parking arrangements?

The adopted Placemaking Plan allocated Avon St and the Riverside coach park for regeneration into Bath Quays, a new business and commercial district for the city. Over the next few years the area will be transformed requiring a new arrangement for coach visitors.

These changes were engaged upon in September 2017 as part of the Council's Parking and Coach Strategy with public consultation via drop in events and an on-line survey. The decision to use Odd Down Park & Ride for long stay coach parking was adopted in February 2018. For more information visit: <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=1066>

How much will Odd Down cost?

Minor additional infrastructure is required to separate the coach parking from the car parking area together with some modifications to the internal Park & Ride road, as well as improvements to the pedestrian routes connecting with the roundabout. New drainage and appropriate surfacing is also required. The Council has made provision of £1.8m in its capital programme to bring forward the scheme with full funding secured from the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership.

When will the coach park be ready, what are the local impacts?

We anticipate construction will commence April 2018 and be ready for operation during July 2018. As the works are fairly contained we expect any noise or disruption will be very minimal. The Council's contractor details will be made available on the project webpage as soon as they are available. The works will be phased to ensure that the Park & Ride services remain operational throughout.

What are the proposed hours of operation for Odd Down coach park?

The coach park will operate the same hours as the Park & Ride. The facility will be locked at approx. 21.00 and unlocked at 05.30. Coaches will be able to exit the coach park at any time via the alligator teeth.

Will Odd Down coach park impact on the highway network? Coach movement between the city centre and Odd Down Park & Ride will mostly take place throughout the day and will generally be travelling in the opposite direction to peak hour traffic. The numbers of coach movements to and from the site in any single hour are forecast to be of a relatively low level; on average there could be up to 7 coach movements (in one direction) per hour. *Forecasts were based on survey data on a peak day in the height of tourist season.

Why was the Odd Down site selected, were other sites looked at?

A rigorous review of potential coach parking locations for both short stay and long stay was undertaken as part of the Council's Coach Parking Review. Sites were identified and scored against the following criteria: ease of coach access, site characteristics, environment and ease of implementation. The Odd Down site offered the best solution as it was already used for a similar purpose and will re-utilise the area previously used for the stone mines compound therefore not impacting on the number of Park & Ride car parking spaces.

In addition coaches already headed in this direction, to unofficially park on the Wellsway, are now provided a dedicated place to park. It is also a readily deliverable site with limited infrastructure expenditure or impact. The proximity to the Park & Ride services has the added benefit of allowing easy access to the city centre.

Will there be charges to park coaches at Odd Down?

A nominal charge of £1 (for up to 24 hours) will apply to coaches in the designated coach parking area. A ticket machine will be available with options to pay via cash or MiPermit.

What facilities will there be for the coach drivers at Odd Down coach park?

On-site facilities will include toilets, a water supply, rubbish bins and coach toilet waste disposal as well as Park & Ride buses available for travel into the city centre. For security and safety there will be CCTV monitoring. In the near future coach operators will be able to access real time parking information to assess availability prior to leaving the city centre.

Will Odd Down coach park provide for overnight coach parking and will charges apply?

Yes, overnight parking will be available. The nominal charge will cover 24 hours.

How will you ensure the coach park is safe to leave coaches overnight?

The coach park will have CCTV cameras that are monitored by a 24 hour control centre. The coach park will also be fenced, with a gated and locked entrance, and an open exit (with alligator teeth to prevent unauthorised vehicular access).

Will any parking spaces be lost at Odd Down Park & Ride to accommodate coaches?

None of the currently consented parking spaces will be lost. The area where the coach park will be sited provided additional car parking capacity at peak times of the year, which was rarely required.

When will the Riverside coach park close?

Changes have already been made to the coach parking at Riverside to deliver the Bath Quays Waterside flood mitigation works. Over the next 2-3 years further changes will be made with closure expected March 2019.

How will you stop coaches parking illegally?

Any vehicle that is parked in contravention of a Traffic Regulation Order may be subject to the issue of a Penalty Charge Notice, including coaches. In addition, the Council is taking forward several Traffic Regulation Order's (TRO) to prevent coach parking at unofficial locations around the city; such as Wellsway, Lower Bristol Road and Bathwick Street. Parking services enforcement officers will then be able to issue penalty notices and fine coaches for parking illegally. Parking Enforcement staff monitor and manage all parking locations within and outside of the city on a regular basis to ensure compliance. If specific issues are identified by the public, we would ask that they contact Parking Services to ensure that they can be considered.

How will this stop coaches parking up in residential areas and causing unnecessary conflict with resident parking?

Providing a dedicated, secure coach park with driver facilities should discourage drivers from parking on street in unauthorised areas where there are no facilities for them. In addition, the introduction of TRO's in areas of unofficial coach parking will allow parking enforcement officers to issue penalty notices and fines.

What else is the Council doing in the area?

In March some separate Highway works are being undertaken to improve traffic flow for all vehicles on the approaches to the Odd Down (A367) roundabout. These works should commence 12 March and take two weeks to complete; delays to the travelling public will be kept to a minimum. The majority of works will involve some realignment of kerbs at the roundabout, with two nights of resurfacing and new lining to complete.