



# Headway

## Hull + East Riding News

Improving life after brain injury

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**citizens  
advice**

## Blue Badge Scheme proposed changes

The Government has launched a consultation on extending the Blue Badge scheme, looking at how the scheme works (or doesn't work) for people with hidden disabilities.

Headway UK would like to get your thoughts on the scheme and collate a response from Headway members across the country. Claire Mills, Headway UK's public affairs manager, has kindly offered to put together everyone's thoughts.



The consultation runs until 18 March 2018, but in order to give Claire enough time to get everything together, we would like your responses by Wednesday 21 February 2018. Please get in touch with Lesley at [headwayhull@gmail.com](mailto:headwayhull@gmail.com) or call 01430430720 or 07538319716.

### What is the Blue Badge scheme?

The Blue Badge scheme provides preferential parking for people with a disability and enables holders to visit their families and friends and to access healthcare and leisure activities. The Blue Badge is awarded to a person with disability; **they do not need to be the driver of the vehicle.**

Although the scheme is administered by local councils, the rules are set by the Department of Transport. The department has been considering how the scheme works for people with hidden disabilities, to ensure that the rules and guidance are clear and that those with the greatest needs have access to a Blue Badge.

### Who is currently eligible?

Eligibility under the current scheme is primarily aimed at those who have "a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking".

**Turn over to find out about the proposed changes and how you can help us!**

# Blue Badge Scheme proposed changes

## What are the proposed changes?

The consultation is seeking views on a proposition to change the criterion to the following:

“a person who has an enduring and substantial disability the effect of which is that that person is unable to-

- i. walk;
- ii. undertake any journey without it causing very considerable difficulty when walking;
- iii. undertake any journey without there being a risk of very considerable harm to the health or safety of that person or any other person;
- iv. follow the route of any journey without another person, assistance animal or orientation aid.”

As an independent mobility assessor may not be suitable for assessing mental or cognitive disabilities, the Department of Transport is seeking views on the use of eligibility assessors for all applicants covered by the proposed new criterion. This would allow a range of healthcare professionals other than GPs to undertake the assessments. They would not need to be independent of the applicant but should be recognised by the local authority as holding a suitable professional qualification and having the necessary expertise to assess the applicant’s eligibility.

Lastly, the consultation asks for views on providing automatic badge eligibility to those people who receive 12 points for the ‘planning and following journeys’ activity of the mobility component of Personal Independence Payment, for non-physical mobility issues.

## How can my thoughts help?

If you let us know your thoughts, we can compile a response to the consultation based on real life experiences and importantly, how you think these changes might affect you or people you care for. We would love to hear your general thoughts but if you could answer the following questions, that would be very helpful:



1. Have you/the person you care for applied for a Blue Badge and been turned down because you/the person you care for does not have a physical mobility problem?
2. What services/facilities/activities do you/the person you care for miss out on, because you/the person you care for does not have a Blue Badge? This could include using local shops and businesses, visiting people, attending social activities, taking part in sport and leisure activities.
3. What difference would it make to your life/the life of the person you care for, if you had a Blue Badge?

Please aim to get responses to Lesley by Wednesday 21 February 2018. If you would like more information, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/blue-badge-disabled-parking-scheme-eligibility-review/blue-badge-scheme-consultation-on-eligibility>.

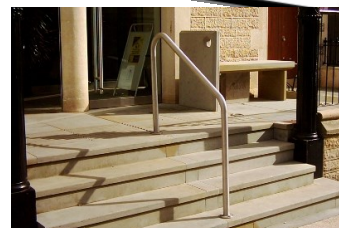
# Combatting local problems



Are you having problems finding a blue badge parking space?

Do you find some public buildings difficult to access?

If the answer is yes, let us know!



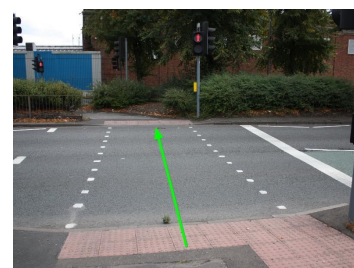
The Disability Advisory Group provides a place to have a direct dialogue with representatives from East Riding County Council who can help us solve these problems. The officers from the relevant departments listen to the issues that affect people with disabilities and provide a place where solutions can be found.



**EAST RIDING**  
OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

The group meets four times a year at County Hall, Beverley where Lesley attends these meetings and puts forward views on behalf of Headway Hull and East Riding.

Recently the group have discussed disability parking spaces in Beverley but we are keen to make sure that **all** concerns are raised from our local area. Some issues may include getting on and off pavements and the accessibility of public buildings. We are aware that many dropped kerbs in Howden don't have a matching kerb at the opposite side of the road!



If you have had any experience with this, or any other issues, please contact Lesley at [headwayhull@gmail.com](mailto:headwayhull@gmail.com) or give her a call.

**Together we can help make change happen!**



## MUTTLEYS COFFEE MEETING— CHANGE THE DATE!

Please note the date of our February coffee meeting at Muttleys Bar has been changed and it will now be on **Tuesday 13 February from 1-3pm.**

Unfortunately the manager of Muttleys Bar, Julie, recently suffered a heart attack. Her daughter, Jade, has been managing the bookings and looking after her mum. We all wish her a speedy recovery.



the brain injury association  
hull + east riding

### About us

Headway HERO is your local branch of Headway, a national charity that provides information and support for brain injured people, their families and carers.

Headway—the brain injury association is a Registered Charity No 1025852 and a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England No. 2346893.

**improving life  
after brain injury**



## Headway HERO Diary

### Friday 2nd February 2018 1—3pm

Drop in for a coffee and a chat at the Danish Seaman's Church, 104 Osborne Street, Hull, HU1 2PN

### Tuesday 13th February 2018 1—3pm

Join us for a coffee and a chat, maybe a bacon butty and a game of pool at Muttleys Bar, Holderness Road

### Wednesday 21st February 2018 6—9pm

Come along to our evening get-together at the Danish Seaman's Church, 104 Osborne Street, Hull, HU1 2PN. Don Buxton of Yorkshire Ambulance will be running a First Aid Awareness course. This will be great fun and informative, so come and join us!



**Headway Scunthorpe would like to welcome HERO members to attend their events, if you would like further information contact them directly on 07715212792 or at [headwaynorthlincs@outlook.com](mailto:headwaynorthlincs@outlook.com)**

**Here's a list of useful dates:**

### Wednesday 21st February 10.30am—12

Come along to the coffee morning at the Cafe in the Debenhams Store, Gallegher Retail Park, Scunthorpe

### Monday 26th February 7—9 pm

Join us for our evening meeting at The Community Wellbeing Hub, Alvingham Road, Scunthorpe, DN16 2DP

### Wednesday 21st March 10.30am—12

Come along to the coffee morning at the Cafe in the Debenhams Store, Gallegher Retail Park, Scunthorpe

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Join us for our evening meeting at The Community Wellbeing Hub, Alvingham Road, Scunthorpe, DN16 2DP

## Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Headway Hull & East Riding's AGM will take place on **Wednesday 21 March 6—9pm** at The Danish Seaman's Church.

Nominations are invited for the positions of Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominees should be willing to stand and have both a proposer and seconder.

Notice of any proposed amendment to the constitution needs to be lodged with the secretary, Lesley, not less than 21 days prior to the AGM (28 February).

Whether you are applying for a position or not, come along to the evening meeting and join in our quiz! If you have any queries about the AGM or any of the positions, please contact Lesley.