

FORWARD MIDLOTHIAN DISABLED



Applying for a Disabled Persons Blue Badge in Midlothian?

How to apply!

Application forms are available from Midlothian Council Travel Team at Bonnyrigg - phone 0131 561 5442. You can call in to the office to collect a form if you prefer. Travel Team, Commercial Services, Midlothian Council, Room 9, Dundas Buildings, 62a Polton Street, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian, EH19 3YD

Eligibility:

You must be a resident of Midlothian, your application for a Blue Badge must be made to Midlothian Council.

To Qualify Automatically:

- ➔ If you are registered blind.
- ➔ If you are receiving the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance. [Under new regulations from April 2007, it is now possible to issue a Blue Badge to someone who is in receipt of HRMC-DLA for more than 12 months but less than three years]
- ➔ If you receive a War Pensioner's mobility supplement.
 - ➔ If your vehicle was supplied by the Department of Social Security.
 - ➔ If a child under the age of 2 has a specific medical condition that requires bulky medical equipment to be carried.

You may also qualify if :

- ➔ If your disability is substantial and means you are unable to walk or you experience considerable difficulty in walking.
- ➔ If you cannot walk more than 50 metres

without severe discomfort, stopping or receiving support from another person.

- ➔ If you have a temporary mobility impairment which makes it impossible or unreasonably difficult for you to walk and which is likely to last for a period of at least 12 months.
- ➔ You have a severe disability in both upper limbs and regularly drive a motor vehicle, but cannot turn the steering wheel by hand even if the wheel is fitted with a turning knob.

Those applying under the discretionary category will be invited to attend a medical assessment at the Bonnyrigg Medical Centre.

Since 1 April 2009 a standard charge of £20 has applied to new Blue Badges, renewed Blue Badges and replacement Blue Badges [if the original is lost or stolen and reported to the Police] issued in Midlothian. For a full three year Blue Badge, this charge equates to less than 2p per day.

You can post your application back accompanied with a £20 Cheque Only to FREEPOSTRRKJ-XSAH-CXSY, TravelTeam, Commercial Services, Midlothian Council, Room 9, Dundas Buildings, 62a Polton Street, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian, EH19 3YD. No stamp required. Alternatively you can apply in person and pay using cash at the above address. Opening times:

Office hours at Dundas Buildings in Bonnyrigg are 0900-1700 Mondays to Thursdays, 0900-1530 on Fridays.

Parking Bill

Disabled Parking Bill for Scotland was granted royal assent on 1st April 2009. Midlothian Council have stated that "the present Government has not indicated where the cost of implementing the Act is to be met".

In Midlothian's case the estimated cost to legalise the Council's 1000+ bays would be in the region of £300000.



So we have a Disabled Parking Bill which has been agreed and passed but cant be implemented because of lack of money! Sound familiar.

Does that feel of much use if you are a Disabled person living in Midlothian fed up with the abuse of Disabled bays at Supermarkets, Town Centres, your local Tesco's.

To top it all off they now want to charge for the issuing of a Disabled persons parking Blue Badge.

News from

Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living



LCIL wins Breakthrough Independent Living Award

The Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living has won the Breakthrough UK Independent Living Award for Accessible Information for their new website and the Grapevine On-line Information service. The Breakthrough UK Awards recognises and celebrates organisations which have gone the extra mile in promoting and supporting independent living.

The awards were held at Manchester Town Hall on 18th June 2009. The Department of Work and Pensions Minister for Disabled People, Jonathan Shaw MP was the ceremony's Key Note Speaker.

If you would like to receive Lothian Disability News by Grapevine by e-mail send them, send your E-mail to

grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk
Or you can visit the website at
www.lothiancil.org.uk



Junk mail

Lets break the triangle



Do you check you e-mails daily, Like me, Do you get a lot of Spam, Like me, telling me I have won thousands of pounds, or bank e-mails telling me there is something wrong with my account and could I follow the links to amend them. There are now three ways of dealing, You can put them into you junk E-mail folder and then delete them, or my favourite, return a series of E-mail to the sender containing nonsense. Now our Internet Service Providers have

decided it is time they stepped in to try and stop so much Spam mail. I suggest you put these e-mail address in your contact folder and forward the e-mail to them so they can find out the senders details and put a stop to us getting spammed. For E-mails from Hotmail/live forward to abuse@live.com for Yahoo forward to abuse@yahoo.com for Googlemail forward to abuse@google.com

This will not stop Spam mail but will slowly reduce the amount you receive.

Bill Of Rights

In March 2009 the Government launched a Green Paper to consult with the public on creating a Bill of Rights for Britain. Their proposal for a 'Bill of Rights and Responsibilities' is that they would not amend the nature and extent of protection provided by the Human Rights Act (HRA) but could build on the HRA by including express reference to responsibilities and new rights such as economic and social rights and children's rights. The Government has not set a specific time frame for the development of a Bill of Rights but has stated that it will not seek to introduce any proposal to Parliament before the next general election which must be held by June 2010.

The Conservative Party has also made a series of public statements that have provided some indications on the key elements of their position relating to a Bill. They have stated that they will replace the HRA with a British Bill of Rights and Responsibilities which places greater emphasis on responsibilities and that they would amend and reduce the scope of the mechanisms relating to human rights protection. No commitment has been made by the Conservatives to retain the current level of protection and mechanisms under the HRA.

In response to the debate, and looking both back at the experience of the HRA and forwards to the election, the Commission has developed a set of key principles. We believe they are essential in developing a Bill of Rights that will ensure both comprehensive protection of the human rights of all and a greater understanding

and ownership of human rights throughout society.

The key principles are:

Principle 1 - Any Bill of Rights should not weaken the levels of human rights protection and mechanisms for enforcement under the Human Rights Act (HRA) and other ratified human rights treaties.

Principle 2 - The Government and any future governments should ensure that the process of developing a Bill of Rights involves and includes all sectors of society, ensures that the process and result creates a feeling of ownership in society as a whole, that the consultation is conducted by an independent body, and is adequately resourced.

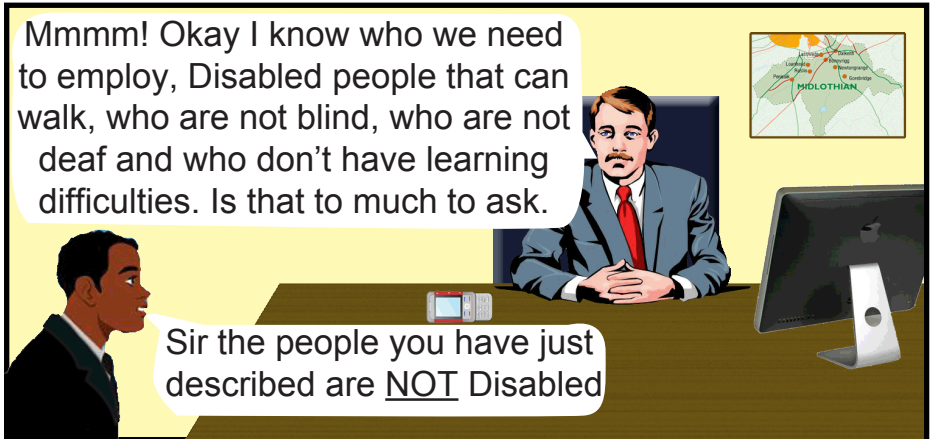
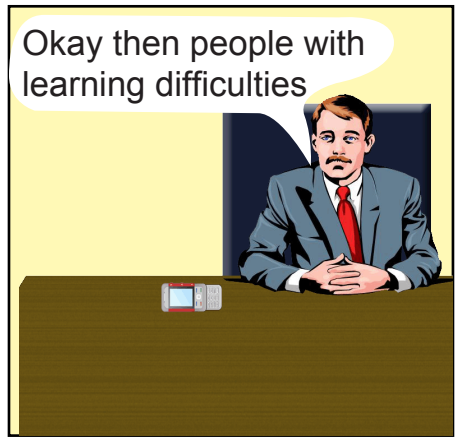
Principle 3 - In a Bill of Rights process, the Government should actively promote understanding of the Human Rights Act/ European Convention on Human Rights and the rights it protects, as well as countering any misconceptions.

Principle 4 - The Commission will provide leadership in the Bill of Rights process by actively safeguarding the minimum standards provided by the Human Rights Act, ensuring compliance with obligations under international treaties and promoting better understanding of existing human rights.

Principle 5 - The Commission will use the results and recommendations for its Human Rights Inquiry to inform its response to the Bill of Rights and further develop the current human rights framework.

In the last issue I made an error, I apologise for misleading anyone with the e-mail address of Midlothian Local area co-ordinator. The correct E-mail address is midlothian.lac@midlothian.gov.uk

New contact details for Forward MID equalities@forwardmid.org.uk



Alternative Publications

The editions of the Forward MID newsletters are available in large print or at www.forwardmid.org.uk
For alternative publication please E-mail to eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk or call Eric Johnstone on 0131-663-9471 or write to him at MVA 4-6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith EH22 1AE with your request.