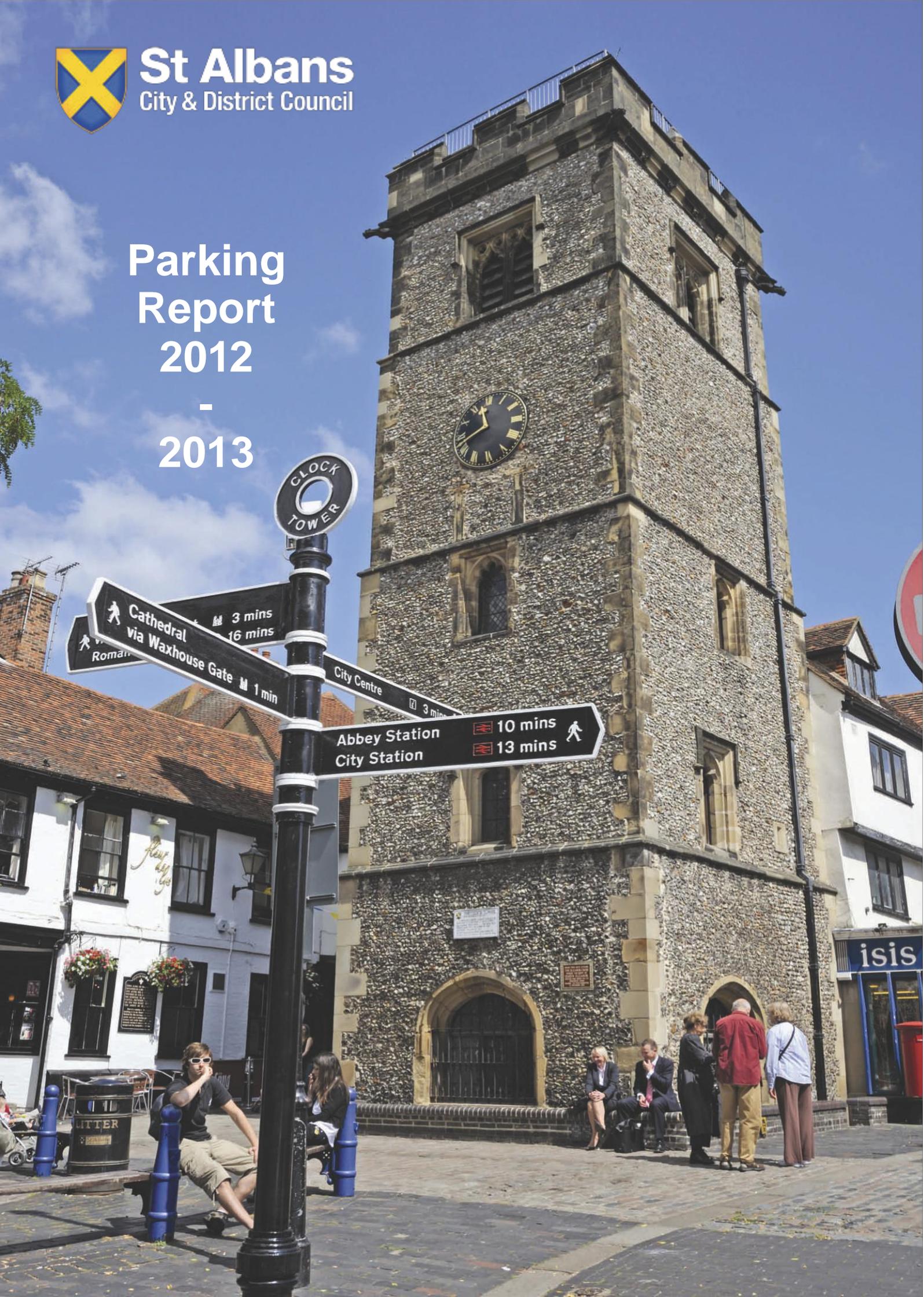




**St Albans**  
City & District Council

# Parking Report 2012 - 2013



## **Annual Parking Report- 2012/2013**

**Under the terms of the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Transport, Parking Enforcement Authorities are required to produce an annual report detailing its enforcement activities under Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This is to promote openness with a better understanding of enforcement and why it is carried out. The Traffic Management Act 2004 came into effect on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 and all parking Authorities are obliged to follow it when dealing with parking enforcement.**

**This report covers the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.**

### **Introduction**

St Albans City and District Council act as the Enforcement Authority for our off- street car parks. Under an Agency Agreement with Hertfordshire County Council we also act as the Enforcement Authority for on-street restrictions and parking control across the District.

The attractiveness of St Albans as a retail centre and tourist attraction, along with the drive to support its economy, has led to increasing pressures on parking in and around the city centre. An average of 30,513 cars per week use the district's public car parks, equating to around 1,525,650 per year and this level of vehicular activity needs to be managed effectively.

Our annual report sets out facts and figures relating to the Councils parking services activity. It is important to keep in mind why the Council manages parking in the first place. The Council seeks to maintain a balance between different driver demands— residents, visitors, businesses, disabled drivers and so on. This also needs to be balanced with the statutory duty placed upon the Council to take parking enforcement action against vehicles who park in contravention of the regulations in an effort to change driver behavior.

We would like nothing more than to see driver compliance with the law and therefore not have to issue a single parking ticket. However the reality is that some drivers do contravene the law.

Alongside this is the aim of sustainability by trying to achieve efficient movement of vehicles throughout the District where inconsiderate parking can contribute to congestion, danger to the pedestrian public and increased pollution. The efficiency of our road network has clear links to minimising the wider impacts of traffic on poor air quality and on the contribution to climate change and the health of people.

Our main aims are to;

- Manage our finite kerb space - due to high levels of vehicle ownership.
- Educate and change - driver behavior.
- Ensure we manage our parking resources effectively.
- Provide Controlled Parking where appropriate by following legislation.

- Provide clean and safe car parking facilities.
- Maintain a flexible parking service to allow for development over the longer term.
- Treat all who contact us with courtesy and consistency by advising them correctly.
- Operate the parking service with due diligence in line with the law.
- Consider each and every challenge to a parking ticket upon its merits in line with the relevant law.

## **Background**

St Albans City and District Council has been undertaking Parking Enforcement since October 2004. Our statutory powers to undertake such duties coincided with the signing of a 10 year contract (with an option to extend for a further 5 years) with NCP Limited and NSL Limited to provide a number of parking related services to the District Council.

The services provided are;

- Investment, maintenance and management of 11 car parks across the District
- Provision of a Parking Shop
- Maintenance and cash collection from pay and display machines
- Administration of the St Albans District permits scheme
- Provision of parking related IT services
- Parking Enforcement Services across the District

## **Car Parks & On – Street Enforcement**

Car parks need to be safe, clean and well maintained and be attractive to motorists. All car parks managed by NCP have received the Park Mark Safer Parking Award.

Our multistory car park in Drovers Way has also received the benefit of extensive investment in CCTV technology.

Following the de-merger of NCP Limited on street enforcement and related activities are undertaken by NSL Services Limited. NCP Limited continue to manage and maintain 11 District car parks with NSL Services Managing the enforcement of the Traffic Management Act 2004 on behalf of the Council.

Details of our car parks and other information relating to parking can be found at:

<http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/parking/Car-parks-in-StAlbans/default.aspx>

## **Effect of the Traffic Management Act 2004**

In March 2008 the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA 2004) came into effect. This replaced the Road Traffic Act 1991 (RTA 1991) under which the District has enforced since October 2004. The Council through its contractors NCP Limited and NSL Services uses Civil Enforcement Officers to enforce parking restrictions throughout the District. This includes St Albans, Harpenden, London Colney, Wheathampstead and surrounding areas. This also includes all off-street car parks managed by NCP on behalf of the District Council as well as other car parks retained by the District.

The two main differences that affect motorists who park in contravention of the regulations under the Traffic Management Act 2004 are:

1. Some Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) reduced. There are now two different charge levels of PCN (known as differential charging), for example a vehicle parked on a yellow line restriction will be issued a PCN at the higher rate of £70 (£35 if paid within 14 days) whilst a vehicle parked over time on an off street car park is not deemed to be as serious a contravention and would therefore be issued with a PCN at the lower rate of £50 (£25 if paid within 14 days).
2. The other difference between the Road Traffic Act 1991 (RTA 1991) and the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA 2004) is that if a motorist returned to their vehicle and drove away before a PCN was fixed to the vehicle or handed to the driver, the PCN was not deemed to be issued under the RTA 1991. However, under the TMA 2004, from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008, a PCN may be issued through the post if the vehicle drives away before the PCN is attached to the vehicle or handed to the driver. St Albans City and District Council do not currently issue PCNs by post.

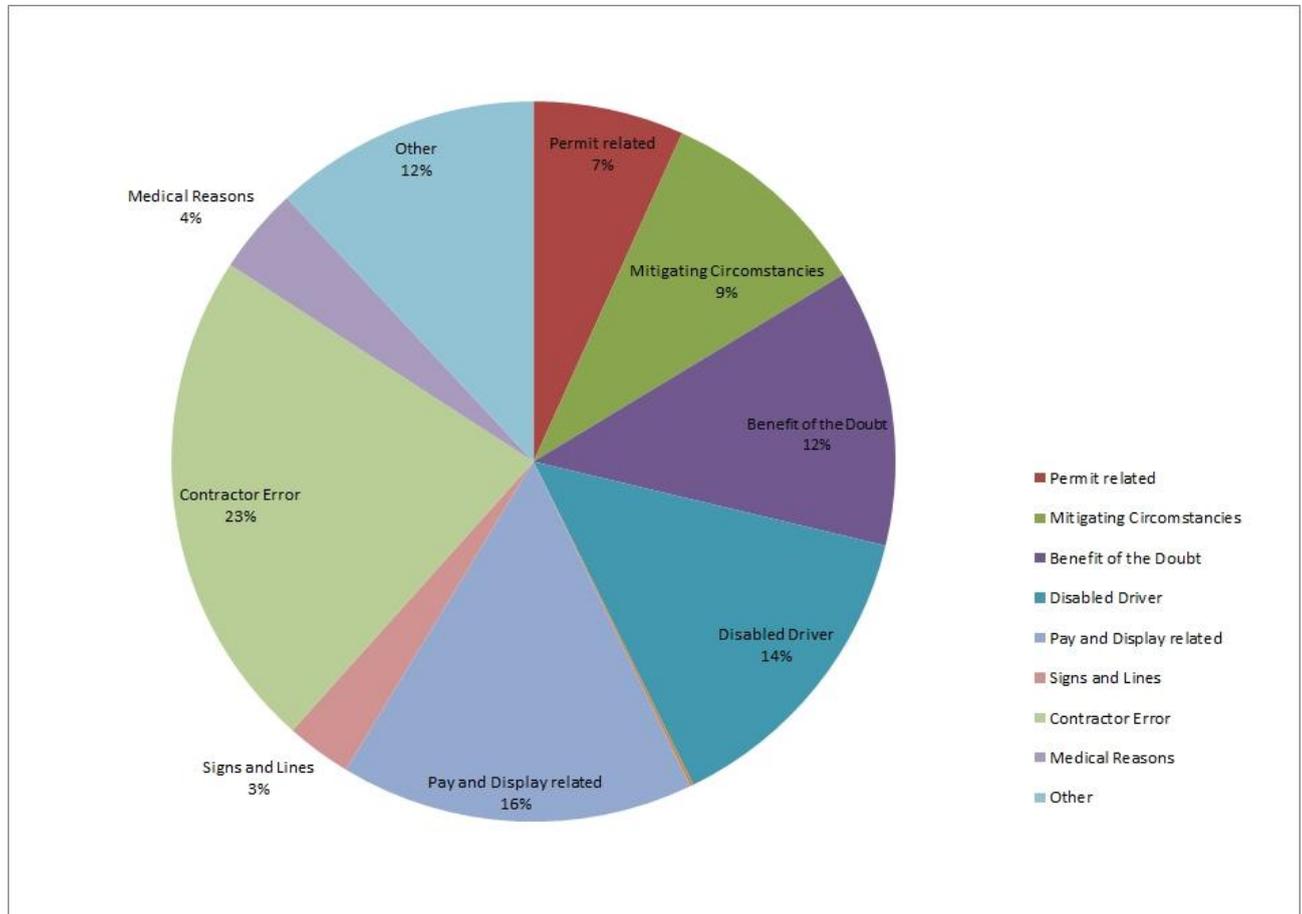
## Statistical Information Relating to Penalty Charge Notices

Penalty Charge Notice (PCNs) Activity;

		<b>01/04/12 to 31/03/13</b>
1	Higher Level PCNs served	9879
2	Lower Level PCNs served	8114
3	Number of PCNs paid	15,257
4	Payment Rate	84.8
5	PCNs paid at discount rate	13,311
6	PCNs paid at full charge before Charge Certificate	1946
7	PCNs paid after service of Charge Certificate	321
8	PCNs paid after issue of Warrant	529
9	Number of PCNs against which an informal or formal representation was made	5287
10	Number of PCNs cancelled as a result of an informal or formal representation	1367
11	Number of cases subject to adjudication at the Traffic Penalty Tribunal	52
12	Number of PCNs registered at the Traffic Enforcement Centre	1200
13	Number of vehicles immobilized (clamped)*	N/A
14	Number of vehicles removed (towed away)*	N/A

\*St Albans City & District Council do not currently clamp or remove vehicles when parked in contravention

## Penalty Charge Notices Cancelled 2012 – 2013



The income and expenditure of local authorities in connection with the on-street and off-street (car parks) enforcement activities are governed by section 55 (as amended) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Details of our income and expenditure relating to section 55 is detailed below.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
<b>ON-STREET</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Pay & Display/Meters	262,795
Residents, Visitors & Business Permits	302,017
Traffic Order related income	0
Other non-PCN income	8,304
PCN income - On & Off Street	603,971
Clamping/removals income	n/a
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,177,087</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Contractors	1,040,617
In-house staff	196,154
Support Costs	61,018
Public Consultation	4,192
Equipment maintenance/renewal	1,137
Signs and Lines Maintenance	20,973
Debt Registration Fees	10,000
Traffic Order Related Works	2,927
Traffic Penalties Tribunal	21,239
Other Supplies (postage, printing, telephones, etc)	3,086
Clamping/removals expenditure	n/a
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,361,343</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-184,256</b>

## **The Parking Shop**

Following a review of Parking Services the Parking Shop is no longer open on Tuesday and Thursday. The closures coincided with the development of improved on line access development. This enables customers to apply and pay for their permit, make challenges against parking tickets, make payment for parking tickets, request suspensions and other services via the internet.

**For further information relating to parking within St Albans City and District please contact:**

**The Parking Shop  
Drovers Way Multi-Storey Car Park  
Drovers Way  
St Albans  
AL3 5EB**

**Monday:** 08.00 to 18.00  
**Tuesday:** Closed  
**Wednesday:** 08.00 to 18.00  
**Thursday:** Closed  
**Friday:** 08.00 to 18.00  
**Saturday:** 08.00 to 18.00  
**Sunday:** Closed  
**Public and Bank Holidays:** Closed

**Telephone:** 01727-868129

**Web:** <http://stalbans.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/parking/Parking-permits/The-parking-shop>