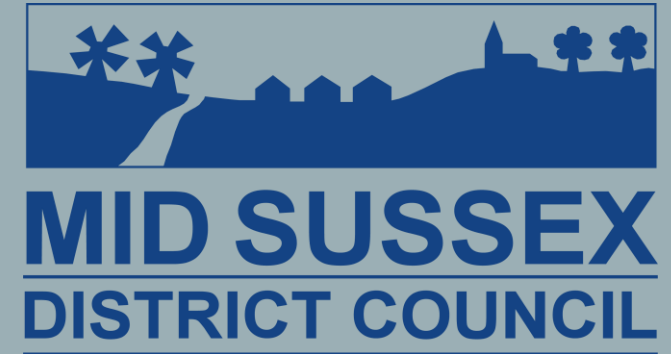




BLUE BADGE ENFORCEMENT

Protecting Accessibility Through Education, Compliance and Enforcement

Presented by Tristan Mitchell

Civil Enforcement Supervisor Mid Sussex District Council

**PROTECTING ACCESS FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT
MOST**

Supports independence and mobility

Enables access to healthcare, employment and services

Protects spaces intended for disabled residents

Maintains confidence in the Blue Badge Scheme

THE REALITY OF BLUE BADGE ABUSE

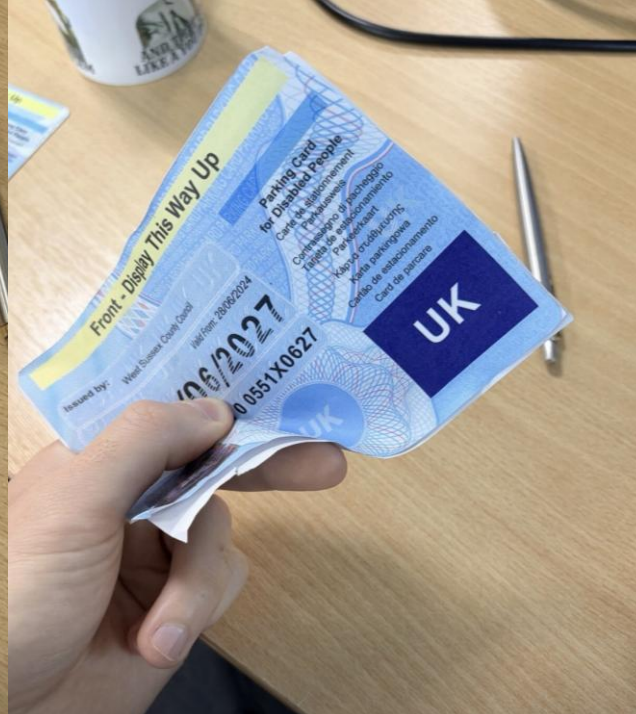
Every misused badge denies a genuine user an opportunity.

Blue Badge misuse is a victim-based offence. The victims are disabled residents.

The inconvenience caused by misuse is often felt by those least able to overcome it.

Costing local authorities millions in revenue.

The British Parking Association reported that **recorded Blue Badge misuse cases have increased by more than 1,000% since 2016.**



BADGES OF DISHONOUR

- Just a few examples of badges we at MSDC have retained...



- Through training we can identify counterfeit badges.
- Tools - Access to **blue badge database** through badge issuing authority to check if the badge holder is deceased / badge lost / replaced along with contact number and picture of badge holder.

HOW WE IDENTIFY MISUSE

15:40 89%

Manage Blue Badges [Sign out](#)

Find a badge [Menu](#)

Beta This is a new service, help us improve by [giving us feedback](#).

Find a badge

Badge number
This is a 6-character code, for example, 72B9HA

Search

[Find a badge using another field](#)

< badge.service.gov.uk >



BADGE RETAINED – WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



- Importantly, **around 99% of individuals whose Blue Badge has been retained do not go on to reoffend.** This demonstrates the effectiveness of the process and highlights how straightforward, yet important, this work is in tackling Blue Badge misuse and protecting the integrity of the scheme.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL

Financial Impact

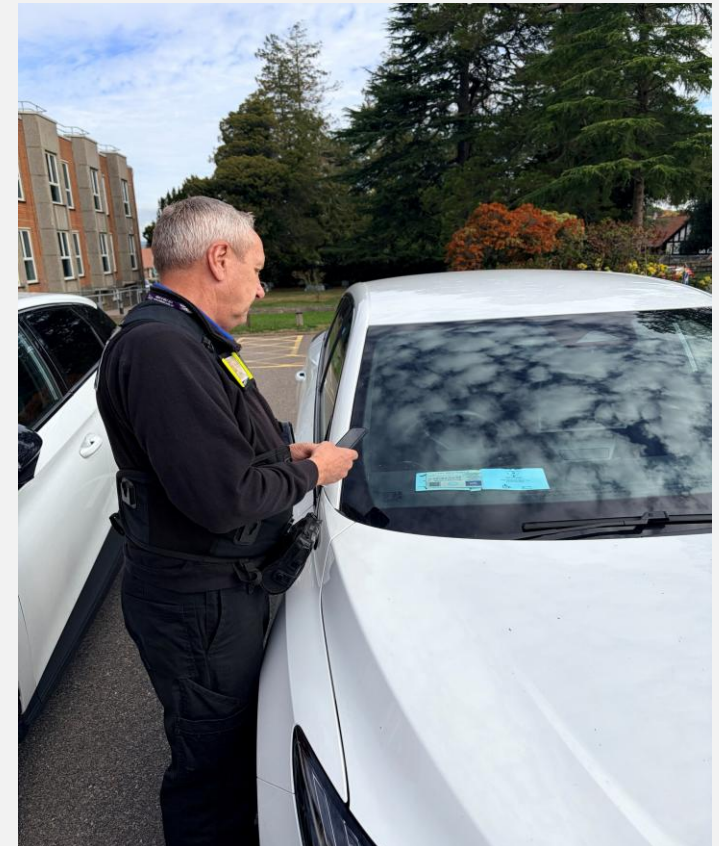
- Reduced abuse of parking concessions - millions of pounds annually.
- Better management of parking assets.
- Loss of parking revenue.

Operational Impact

- Increased badge availability.
- Improved public confidence.
- Supports council accessibility objectives.

Reputation

- Demonstrates fairness.
- Protects vulnerable residents.



- The public largely supports Blue Badge enforcement. (Amazing feedback.)
- Genuine badge holders want the scheme protected.
- Misuse is often deliberate rather than accidental.
- Consistent checks are essential.
- Every badge not checked is a missed opportunity to protect the scheme.
- Consistent enforcement drives compliance.
- Education reinforces understanding and awareness.
- Training is only ONE DAY.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNT





FEATURED ON **ITV**: OUR BLUE BADGE WORK AND POSITIVE FEEDBACK



WHEN THE LAW MEETS THE LAW

- A solicitor was **struck off the legal profession** after using a child's Blue Badge that did not belong to him on **multiple times** to park outside his work.
- He was convicted of **three offences involving the use of a Blue Badge with intent to deceive**.
- He received a **£1,500 fine and £6,000 in costs**.
- The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal subsequently **struck him off**.
- He appealed to the High Court, but the appeal **failed**.
- The High Court found that his actions were **deliberate, calculated and repeated**, and that his conduct damaged public trust in his profession.
- He was also ordered to pay a further **£18,000 in legal costs**

It really could be anyone...

EVERY BADGE.
EVERY SPACE. EVERY
CHECK MATTERS.

- The most important badge isn't the one we retain. It's the genuine badge holder who can find a space because we made a difference.
 - **Thank you for listening**
 - My email -
Tristan.mitchell@midsussex.gov.uk
 - Training: **Stephen.Goodall@portsmouthcc.gov.uk**
- Senior Criminal Investigations Officer