

## COUNCIL-LED PARKLETS FAQs

### WHAT IS A PARKLET?

Parklets are semi-permanent structures that repurpose and transform small parts of streets or parking spaces; utilising greenery, seating and other features to improve the urban environment and provide practical benefits to the local community.

### WHAT DOES COUNCIL-LED MEAN?

Council-led parklets are small scale urban realm improvement schemes that are delivered and often funded by the council in partnership with businesses or community groups. The council maintains responsibility for the structure and its maintenance whilst local stakeholders take responsibility for its use and upkeep.

### WHAT ABOUT RESIDENT-LED PARKLETS?

The council is currently in the process of developing a resident-led parklet programme and look forward to launching it shortly.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A PARKLET?

Council-led parklets aim to:

- Create a place of rest, activity, social interaction and education
- Encourage and promote access to walking and cycling
- Support local economic growth
- Improve air quality
- Activate local retail areas through place making.

### HOW DO I SUGGEST A PARKLET LOCATION?

If you have a suggestion for a Council-led Parklet location, we would like to hear from you! Please fill out the survey available [here](#).

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I SUGGEST A LOCATION?

The Parklets team will review the suggested location and identify potential sites based on our suitability criteria, before performing wider engagement as part of the design process.

### CAN I APPLY FOR A PARKLET OUTSIDE OF MY BUSINESS?

Yes, partnering with local organisations and sharing both the benefits derived from and responsibility for a parklet is key to ensuring the long-term success of small-scale urban improvements schemes like parklets.

### **WHO CAN USE A PARKLET?**

A parklet is a public space that can be used by everyone.

### **ARE PARKLETS SAFE TO BE INSTALLED ON THE STREET?**

Waltham Forest officers carry out detailed site assessments and oversee all design decisions to ensure they reflect best practice, current health and safety guidance and accessibility considerations. We ensure all proposal considerations reflect the street environment in which the parklet sits and where appropriate additional safety assessments and measures will be undertaken.

### **HOW ARE PARKLETS MAINTAINED?**

The Council will maintain the parklet however as a community asset, the parklet should also be looked after by the local community. If a parklet is outside a business, we encourage the host to take ownership for general upkeep.

### **HOW ARE PARKLETS MONITORED?**

- Local business feedback – host location (if applicable) and surrounding businesses
- User surveys
- Officer observation

### **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A PARKLET IS INSTALLED?**

Each parklet will have an initial trial period of up to 12 months, during which the previous use of the space will be suspended. During the trial period, the use of the parklet and its upkeep will be monitored to inform the Council's decision on whether to allow the parklet to remain in position at the end of the trial period or remove sooner if deemed necessary.

### **WHAT PLANTING WILL BE INSTALLED WITHIN THE SCHEME?**

If the scheme is supported by the community and approved for delivery, the detailed design stage will look at what specific planting species should be installed. There will be a number of factors that will be considered, including maintenance, the local surrounds, flowering, the site, and key stakeholders that may need to be engaged.

### **I WANT TO DISCUSS PARKLETS WITH THE COUNCIL. WHO DO I GET IN TOUCH WITH?**

If you would like to suggest a location, please fill out the survey [here](#).

If you would like any further information, contact the Parklets team at [parklets@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:parklets@walthamforest.gov.uk).