



DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)**

26 MARCH 2007

KEY ISSUE:

To update the committee about progress since the introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement in January 2006 and to seek approval to formally advertise a new Controlled Parking Zone in Esher.

SUMMARY:

Decriminalised Parking Enforcement has been operational in Elmbridge since January 2006.

Indications are that there will be significantly more income from the issue of Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) in the Borough than was originally estimated in the current financial year.

Significant progress has been made with a number of parking management schemes as well as the review of waiting restrictions in the Borough. A public consultation has been carried out in Esher indicating strong support for a new parking scheme and approval is sought to progress this.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to agree that:

- i) The proposals for the Esher CPZ as shown on drawing 7265/50 (available at the meeting) be formally advertised and that any objections be considered and resolved by the Local Transportation Manager in consultation with the DPE Operational Task Group and the Esher Divisional Member.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) started in Elmbridge on the 9th January 2006. Since this date Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) have carried out enforcement of the waiting and parking restrictions as agents for Surrey County Council.
- 1.2 A DPE Operational Task Group has been formed by the Committee to steer the operational DPE process as well as deciding what changes are needed to parking restrictions in the Borough. The Task Group members were agreed as the Chairman, Vice Chairman, EBC Highways Portfolio Holder and SCC/EBC officers.
- 1.3 The operational aspects of DPE are considered to be working very well displaying effective partnership working between the SCC Transportation Service and the EBC Parking Team.
- 1.4 Surrey County Council funds 3.5 full time equivalent Parking Attendants (PA's) to enforce on street restrictions in Elmbridge through the central DPE budget.
- 1.5 Overall it is estimated that the DPE operation in the Borough will achieve an operating surplus of approximately £140,000 at the end of the first full operational financial year. This revenue reverts to the central countywide DPE budget and is used to help finance the ongoing implementation and operation of DPE across the County.
- 1.6 A publicity Campaign was organised by EBC during January and February (on the first anniversary of DPE) to highlight the potential dangers of parking illegally and the consequences of doing so. Adverts/features were carried on a local radio station and local newspaper. Posters were also placed in roads where illegal parking was considered to be most prevalent in order to warn motorists about the possibility of receiving a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) for contravening the parking restrictions.
- 1.7 The effective enforcement of parking restrictions has inevitably led to an increased number of requests for changes to be made to existing restrictions as well as requests for new. Other factors have also lead to increased pressures to review on street parking restrictions namely:
 - The introduction of charging in the EBC off street car parks. This has lead many drivers to park for free on streets surrounding the car parks instead of paying the new charges.
 - The introduction of a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) in Surbiton has lead to displaced on street parking in Long Ditton

2.0 ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

- 2.1 There is a need to make changes to waiting and parking restrictions to take account of change and new development as described above.

Consequently it is planned to carry out an annual amendment order in the Borough that will include relatively small scale but widespread changes to restrictions. The first amendment order (since DPE started) is currently underway and the new restrictions included in it are planned to be on the ground during March and April this year. These new restrictions are in the following areas:

- Long Ditton -The Royal Borough of Kingston have extended CPZ restrictions to the Borough boundary which has pushed commuter parking into the Long Ditton area.
- Simpson Way, Long Ditton – Double yellow lines to be implemented throughout the extent of public highway
- Various locations in Cobham to deal mainly with displaced parking as a consequence of charging in to the Borough's off street car park and to help local businesses.
- Molesey Road, Hersham - Introduction of parking bays to help local traders.
- Lower Green Road, Esher – Introduction of at any time restriction near railway bridge.
- Queens Road and The Quadrant, Weybridge – new parking bays to help local businesses.
- Brooklands Lane, Weybridge - Introduction of double yellow lines to prevent school traffic parking.
- Leatherhead Road, Oxshott –Introduction of on-street short stay parking bay to help local businesses.
- Ashley Road, Walton on Thames – introduction short stay parking bay to help local businesses.
- The 2007/08 amendment order (No 2 since DPE started) will be started in April. County members will be asked to provide locations where restrictions may need investigating or amending and these will be added to the existing list of requests. These will then be reviewed and prioritised by the DPE Operational Task Group early in the new financial year. A number of areas have also been identified with specific or more complicated parking problems and these have been prioritised for more comprehensive parking management studies. These are:

2.2 Esher

Many of the residential roads around the High Street currently have no waiting or parking restrictions and the properties in them have low street parking provision. These roads are used for parking by local workers, shoppers and race day visitors making it difficult for residents to park near their homes. In addition the High Street parking bays need to be changed to impose a shorter parking period which will introduce regular turnover and help local businesses.

A public consultation was carried out in December 2006 and in total 192 completed questionnaires were returned. Of these:

- 77% thought something should be done to improve parking and
- 73% felt they would like to have resident's permits.

More significantly there were a high number of positive responses from residents in Park Rd, Wolsey Rd, Hilbrow Rd and Esher Green which probably have the least off street parking availability and the greatest need for residents permits.

- The majority of respondents felt 2 residents permits were about right for most properties.
- A 2 hour maximum stay was considered to be the most appropriate limit for the parking bays in the High Street slip roads.

Consequently a detailed parking management scheme in the form of a Controlled Parking Zone has been developed covering the area around Esher High Street. The detailed proposals are shown on drawing 7265/50. Implementation is planned for of Autumn 2007 subject to statutory consultation.

2.3 Walton on Thames

Walton town centre is undergoing extensive redevelopment leading to increased parking problems around the town. The introduction of charges into the main car parks is also a major issue. A local members working group has been set up to consider the best method of resolving parking problems. Detailed parking surveys were carried out in February to determine the scale of the problem and the results of these will be discussed with DPE Operational Task group in March.

2.4 Thames Ditton

Thames Ditton has problems with commuter parking around the rail station and general lack of restriction in the High Street which can lead to obstructive parking. Parking surveys have been carried out and a

public consultation leaflet is being prepared with local Councillors. Public consultation is planned for April.

2.5 Manor Drive, Hinchley Wood

This is not technically a parking study however residents will soon be consulted about new parking arrangements to reduce long standing commuter parking problems in this road. Any amendments or new restrictions will be included in the 2007/08 amendment order.

2.6 Other Parking Issues

2.7 A joint SCC/EBC Parking Management Plan is soon to be developed that will consider many of the parking problems and issues in the Borough as well as identifying possible solutions and long term targets that could be adopted. This will be reported to the Local Committee at a later date.

2.8 The Parking Task Group has agreed to review the financial arrangements of the existing CPZ's in the Borough. The current charge of £10 for residents permits in the Hersham, Walton and Weybridge CPZ's no longer covers the cost of administering these schemes. Residents in the Molesey CPZ are charged £35 for a resident permit and this is considered to be a more realistic level.

2.9 The on street pay and display charges around Walton Station have been agreed to be increased from £2.70 to £3.70 per day in order to minimise any increases to the cost of residents permits. The adjacent off street EBC car park has recently increased its charges to £3.50 per day.

3.0 CONSULTATIONS

3.1 Appropriate consultations with the DPE Operational Task Group and local divisional members will be carried out prior to any proposed changes to waiting restrictions being formally advertised.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 £40,000 has been allocated for DPE traffic order amendments and parking studies from the LTP allocation in the current financial year.

4.2 It is planned to progress parking management schemes in Esher, Walton on Thames and Thames Ditton next financial year as well as another general amendment order however the Elmbridge LTP settlement has not yet been finalised.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT (DPE) IN ELMBRIDGE
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE) - 28
MARCH 2006
