



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER FOR SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS

26 SEPTEMBER 2007

KEY ISSUE

To consider the implementation of a Traffic Regulation Order to cover all School Keep Clear markings in Mole Valley.

SUMMARY

The Crime and Disorder Partnership, consisting of Surrey Police and Police Authority, District and County Council, Surrey Fire & Rescue Service and Surrey Primary Care Trust, has conducted an extensive campaign to address dangerous and inconsiderate parking outside Mole Valley schools.

Part of that campaign included consultation with all the schools and partner organisations and subsequent discussions with Surrey Highways.

The Partnership recommends that School Keep Clear markings are made enforceable in line with Surrey County Council's policy with regard to School Keep Clear markings (Annex 1).

This report details the mandatory restrictions required to ensure School Keep Clear markings are enforceable.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to agree that:

- (i) 'No parking' on School Keep Clear markings be made mandatory enforceable by Traffic Regulation Order under Sections 1 and Part III of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to impose a prohibition of stopping of all vehicles on the existing School Keep Clear markings, between the hours of 08.15 – 09.15 & 14.30 – 16.00 during school term times; and
- (ii) authority be delegated to the Local Highways Manager in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to advertise the necessary Order(s), to consider any objections received and subject to those objections make the Order(s);

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The first meeting of the Road Safety Working Group, a sub group of the Crime and Disorder Partnership, was held in June 2006. Various actions regarding parking management within the local area were agreed at this meeting. One of these was to hold a campaign specifically aimed at inconsiderate and dangerous parking outside schools.
- 1.2 There has been an increasing problem within Mole Valley of parents parking inconsiderately on the Keep Clear markings outside schools. These markings were originally installed to give children good visibility in both directions when crossing the road.
- 1.3 The two other boroughs, Reigate and Banstead and Tandridge, within this police division have or are in the process of making their School Keep Clear markings enforceable.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 As car ownership increases so does the amount of journeys we make by car.¹ In Mole Valley the numbers of children who travel to and from school by car has increased from 40% to 46% over the last two years.² This is considerably higher than the national average where 32% of pupils are taken to school by car.³
- 2.2 During Spring 2007 the Crime and Disorder Partnership delivered an active campaign entitled '*Show You Care, Park Elsewhere*' aimed at educating parents by pointing out the danger they are causing by parking on the School Keep Clear markings.
- 2.3 Despite a high profile campaign the problem has continued as some parents realise that the School Keep Clear markings are currently purely advisory.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Local Committee has various options when investigating this issue:
 - Leave the markings as not enforceable throughout the local area
 - Have a Traffic Regulation Order only on priority schools within the local area
 - Make all School Keep Clear markings outside schools enforceable

¹ National Travel Survey 2005, Department of Transport

² Surrey County Council 2007

³ National Travel Survey 2005, Department of Transport

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Since the '*Show you care, Park Elsewhere*' campaign began in Spring 2007 we have been listening to the viewpoints of parents, partner agencies and head teachers. The consultation methods used ranged from individual meetings with key partners to an online survey for Headteachers. Schools were contacted within Mole Valley and 100% of those who responded were particularly supportive of the likely recommendation to enforce the School Keep Clear markings.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The cost of making the Traffic Regulation Order is estimated to be approximately £2000 and will be financed from the Committee's LTP Allocation. The cost of the necessary road marking and signing is estimated at £5000.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The policy will capture all schools within the District and enforcement will be in line with Surrey County Council's policy regarding equalities and diversity.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Although the number of injury incidents involving children outside schools is low, there is no doubt that the combination of child pedestrians and manoeuvring and parking traffic is potentially highly dangerous. The removal of parking immediately outside the schools gates, through enforcing the School Keep Clear markings will make it safer for children to cross the road and may encourage more parents and children to walk to school.
- 7.2 Many of our partners are committed to improving road safety. Specific reference regarding vulnerable road users such as children are made within the Mole Valley's Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008 and Mole Valley Community Plan 2006-2016. Both of these documents were produced after extensive consultation with Mole Valley's community.
- 7.3 Specific road safety measures for Surrey County Council are detailed in the Joint Road Safety Strategy 2006.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 This report has been produced as a result of the '*Show you Care, Park Elsewhere*' campaign. One of the clear conclusions and recommendations from this campaign was that the ability to enforce the School Keep Clear markings is essential to improve road safety outside schools.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 This measure

- will improve road safety outside schools
- will compliment other recommendations from the campaign
- is the most cost effective way to proceed
- will enable consistency regarding road markings within the District and County wide

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

10.1 If the Committee endorse the Officer recommendations the appropriate Traffic Regulation Order will be pursued and if made enforcement of the new regulations will be achieve via the existing Decriminalised Parking Enforcement arrangements that exist between Surrey and Mole Valley District Council.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	National Travel Survey 2005, Department of Transport, 2005 Surrey Travel Survey, Surrey County Council 2007 Mole Valley Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008 Mole Valley Community Plan 2006-2016 Joint Road Safety Strategy 2006, Surrey County Council

School keep clear marking Policy

The County Council can place 'School Keep Clear' markings at sites where parked vehicles are a hazard to children. The marking is a reminder not to park at the school entrance for whatever reason.

General

School Keep Clear markings are yellow together with a zigzag pattern of yellow lines. (The design is set out in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 page 179).

It is not intended that markings should be used outside all schools, only where it is necessary in the interests of road safety. Guardrails are considered to be the better way to protect children at school entrances and are provided wherever appropriate whether or not a Keep Clear marking is in place. Each location should be considered on its merits but good visibility is the purpose of the markings. For children to cross safely at these markings, there should be good visibility in both directions from both sides of the road.

If this is not the case, then the use of 'school keep clear' markings may be counterproductive in road safety terms.

The marking is only advisory and has, over time, become recognised as such and its initial impact lost. It may succeed in raising motorists' awareness but will be abused by some motorists.

Mandatory Marking

The markings can be made mandatory with a Traffic Regulation Order and signing after the following points have been considered:

1. if alternative action such as raising awareness through publicity, could improve compliance with the existing marking
2. the suitability of the site involving consultation with the Police and the local road safety officer
3. availability of road space. In residential areas markings may front houses with no off-street parking
4. at what time stopping on the marking is an offence, to avoid confusion to both motorists and Police. The recommended morning and afternoon peaks will be shown on existing signs as:
Morning prohibition – 8.15a.m. until 9.15a.m.
Afternoon prohibition – 2.30p.m. until 4.00p.m.
5. reasons for any injury accidents investigated (likely to be extremely low)
6. engineering measures such as kerb build outs to ensure restrictions are self-enforcing. This can provide adjacent protected parking.

Costs associated with providing markings

- site surveys and records
- publicity material
- drafting and publishing the Traffic Regulation Order
- dealing with any objections to the Order
- design, supply and erection of posts and signs.