

Advertising signs on street furniture

Chiltern Local Committee

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1 Purpose of report

- a To advise the Local Committee about fly – posting and other illegal advertising on the public highway. This report has been prepared in response to a request for information from Mr A Rand, representing Chalfont St Giles Parish Council.

2 Proposed action

- b The Local Committee is invited to NOTE the Report.

3 Supporting information

- c The highway authority has the powers to remove poster, signs, pictures etc from the highway including bridges, subways, lamp columns, and other street furniture.
- d The power to remove signs etc is provided by Section 132 of the Highways Act 1980, which states:

“ the Highway Authority for a highway may remove any picture, letter, sign or other mark which has, without either the consent of the authority or an authorisation given by or under enactment, been painted or otherwise inscribed or affixed upon the surface of the highway or upon any tree, structure or works on or in the highway “

- e Expressed in fairly simple terms, the provision in Section 132 means that some signs can be removed immediately without notice. In particular, the signs are those which are fixed to trees, lamp columns, traffic signs, other street furniture or structures within the highway. The term “signs” can include posters attached with paste or tape, more substantial signs mounted on hardboard or similar (Often fixed with string, wire or metal tape), and other advertising material.

- f Typical signs are those advertising house-building or other developments, antique fairs, leather and furniture sales, golf sales etc.
- g Any signs (except paper posters etc) removed under Section 132 are retained for at least 28 days in case the owner wishes to collect them. In the event such boards are not claimed they are destroyed.
- h Where signs are not fixed to trees, posts, etc., within the public highway and are clearly on private land, the provisions of the Act do not apply. The appropriate District Council for the area can only take action on these as local planning authority.
- i The County Council's Officers operating these procedures have sometimes found it necessary to exercise some discretion in action taken. For example, where a local community is organising a charity event, village fete etc., some carefully placed and well designed temporary signing might be appropriate provided this is erected just prior to the event and removed quickly afterwards.
- j In addition yellow housebuilder direction signs are now permitted under the traffic sign regulations, subject to there being a demonstrable need from a traffic management point of view and express prior approval from the County Council – through the Area Office.

Devolution of powers to remove signs

- k The priority afforded to removal of illegal signs etc can vary depending upon the type of problem created by the sign and workload priorities of staff and contractors. With this in mind the County Council is able to devolve to Local Councils powers to remove such signs etc if a more.
- l To date, only Chalfont St Peter Parish Council has taken on this devolved power. If other Parish/Town Councils are interested in finding out more about what is involved they should write to the Local Area Co-ordinator at Beaconsfield.