

Chesham and Chiltern Villages LAF

Title: Review of Traffic Regulation Orders on Bank Holiday Parking Restrictions in Chesham
Date: 07 Jan 2013
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Electoral divisions affected: Chesham

Summary

A petition was presented to Transport for Buckinghamshire requesting a review of the Traffic Regulation Orders in Chesham. The petition stated that:

“Off street parking in Chesham is very limited, especially in some residential areas and many residents find it hard to find somewhere to legally park their vehicles near their home. It is understood that in weekdays some parking restrictions are necessary to help with safety, however exemptions should be put in place doe areas with restrictions (such as no parking Mon – Fr 8am to 6pm) to prevent residents being ticketed for parking whilst at home on public holidays, including bank holidays such as Christmas and Boxing day etc”

Recommendation

That the current review of the restrictions is completed and outcome reported back to the LAF

Supporting information to include the following if a decision is being requested:

While it has been confirmed that it is possible to draft TROs that permit Bank Holiday exemptions there is still some uncertainty whether this applies to all TROs.

Research of similar TROs in other local Authorities has shown that most only allow Bank Holiday Exemptions on TROs where there is permissive parking such as P&D in residential areas, Residents Bays

Officers are currently investigating whether it is possible to make exemptions for Prohibitive restrictions covered by yellow lines

If legal advice confirms that exemptions can be made to TROs covering Single Yellow Lines then options for changes to those, which normally permit Sunday or Weekend parking in residential areas in Chesham, will be pursued.

Where there are double yellow lines these are provided for safety reasons and it is not proposed to consider any exemptions to these. It is also not proposed to consider any changes to Bus Stop restrictions

Resource implications

The scheme feasibility is currently being progressed within the Parking Team's Business Plan for 2012/13. Funding will need to be found to implement any agreed changes to the TROs

The Town Council has approached the Local Area Forum for funding towards the scheme

Legal implications

If amendments to the TROs are required these will need to be drawn up by legal and the order sealed before the new waiting restrictions can be enacted

Other implications/issues

Even where amendments to the TROs are agreed and changed it will not be possible to add a bank holiday exemption to any on street signs. Information will be made available on the Council's website to inform residents of when the restrictions are enforceable.

Until TROs are changed; and if the contractor receives a call from a local resident, Police Officer or other party for enforcement in the area during the contractor's hours of operation; it will not be possible to stop enforcement being carried out. If enforcement is directly requested then the contract requires the contractor to respond within set timescales.

The review of the bank holiday exemption could be linked to a wider review of Yellow lines which could be taking place later in the year. This would produce a cost saving by combining the TRO changes into one order however this will need to be closely monitored to ensure that there is no risk to the delivery of the bank holiday review.

Feedback from consultation and Local Member views (if relevant)

Local Member Noel Brown has been working with the County Council to pursue changes to the TROs in Chesham to enable parking to occur on some restrictions on Bank Holidays

Following Member discussions the parking enforcement in Chesham on Bank Holidays is being focused on the main roads and traffic sensitive streets

Background Papers

None