
PARKING PLACES FOR DISABLED PERSONS VEHICLES – THANET AREA

To: **Thanet Joint Transportation Board – 3 September 2013**

By: **Civil Enforcement Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All Wards**

Summary: **To report upon the requests to provide parking places for disabled persons vehicles at various locations across Thanet.**

For Decision **Members are requested to recommend that the parking places for disabled persons vehicles are advertised for public comment/objection**

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Kent County Council, as traffic authority, has the power to designate part of the highway as an on-street parking place and control the type of vehicle and the terms and conditions of its use under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Sections 32 and 35.
- 1.2 Therefore, Thanet District Council, acting on behalf of Kent County Council can provide special parking bays on street for disabled people who have substantial difficulties in walking and parking in the vicinity of their property.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 A number of applications for parking places for disabled person's vehicles have been processed and have been agreed and an interim parking place has been introduced. This means that the bay is marked on the road, but will not be legal and therefore cannot be enforced.
- 2.2 Once a legal Traffic Regulation Order is made a sign is erected and the bay is legal and can be enforced.
- 2.3 4 applications for parking places for disabled person's vehicles have been agreed and are listed in Annex 1
- 2.4 If Members endorse the recommendations, they will be formally advertised in the usual way for public comment/ objection. A notice is placed in a free local newspaper and notices are placed 'on street'. If objections are received they will be referred to Members who will recommend whether to amend, abandon or introduce the parking places for disabled person's vehicles as advertised.

3.0 Options

- 3.1.1 Advertise - The parking places for disabled person vehicles as listed in Annex 1 would be exposed for formal public consultation.
- 3.1.2 Take no further action - The parking places for disabled person vehicles as listed in Annex 1 would not be exposed for formal public consultation, the interim parking places would not become legal therefore could not be kept clear for the use of blue badge holders and the bay may have to be removed.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial

- 4.1.1 The work associated with the Traffic Regulation Order for parking places for disabled person vehicles would be funded, managed and enforced by the Thanet District Council using the on-street parking account.

4.2 Legal

- 4.2.1 Kent County Council, as traffic authority, has the power to designate part of the highway as an on-street parking place and control the type of vehicle and the terms and conditions of its use under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Sections 32 and 35.

4.3 Corporate

- 4.3.1 The proposal will benefit all blue badge holders that may need to park in the Thanet area as on street disabled persons parking bays are for any vehicle that is displaying a valid blue badge. Without a Traffic Regulation Order on the disabled persons parking bays the bays cannot be kept clear for blue badge holders.

4.4 Equity and Equalities

- 4.4.1 By advertising the disabled drivers parking bays as part of the Traffic Regulation Order making process the Order can be made, a sign can be erected and the bay will be legal and can be enforced. This will benefit the holders of blue badges and give them greater independence to lead their lives.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 That subject to the views of this Board, the recommendations shown in appendix 1 are approved, and
- 5.2 That the proposals which require statutory consultation are advertised, and that any objections are reported back to a future meeting of the Board.

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Annex List

<i>Annex 1</i>	<i>List of Disabled persons parking bays to be advertised.</i>
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