
PARKING PLACES FOR DISABLED PERSONS VEHICLES – THANET VARIOUS

To: Thanet Joint Transportation Board – 15 September 2016

By: Civil Enforcement Manager

Classification: Unrestricted

Ward: Across the District - Various

Summary: To report upon the request to provide parking places for disabled persons vehicles in 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 streets for disabled people who have substantial difficulties in walking and parking in the vicinity of their property.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 Seven applications for a parking place for disabled person's vehicle has been processed and it has been agreed that 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 Seven applications for parking place for disabled person's vehicle have been agreed and are listed in annex 1
- 2.4 If Members endorse the recommendations, the bays 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 on traffic related matters they will be referred to Members who will recommend whether to amend, abandon or introduce the parking place for disabled person's vehicle as advertised.

3.0 Options

- 3.1.1 1 – Advertise - The parking places for disabled persons vehicle as listed in annex 1 would be exposed for formal public consultation.
- 3.1.2 2 – Take no further action - The parking places for disabled persons vehicle as listed in annex 1 would not be exposed for formal public consultation and therefore could not be enforced.

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 'decriminalisation budget'.

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. With out 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(s)

- 5.1 Members are requested to recommend option 1 - that the parking places for disabled person's vehicles as listed in annex 1 would be exposed for formal public consultation.
- 5.2 That the proposals which require statutory consultation are advertised, and that any traffic related objections are reported back to a future meeting of the Board.

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Background Papers None

Annex List

Annex 1	List of sites of Disabled persons parking bays to be advertised.
Annex 2	Site plan of Disabled persons parking bays to be advertised.