

Tales from the Traffic Team



HATOC Waiting Restrictions fund

Further to local feedback we are looking at creating a small fund to take forward requests for waiting restrictions on an annual basis at HATOC level. The proposals would involve allocating HATOC's between 5k-15k to determine a programme of works each year based on Officer proposals. If schemes failed to meet the cut on cost grounds, Members could top up the fund locally, for example through their allocations. The proposal is being discussed in each of the current round of HATOCs, an example can be found here in Section 4:-

http://www.devon.gov.uk/loadtrimdocument?url=&filename=PTE/15/49.CMR&rn=15/WD355&dg=Public

The traffic management team are currently looking to identify what running lists are in existence to inform this, where such lists do not exist it will require time being spent to formulate locally, equally any feedback around what the appraisal process could look like would be welcomed. For more information please contact Mike Jones.

Dispensations – Go Live!

On 21 September 2015 we launched our new dispensation permit scheme, including the opportunity to pre-purchase an annual permit and/or scratch card booklets. The intention being to further assist contractors in accessing their work sites and removing the need to book a daily dispensation permit for every job. The updated scheme was developed after considering suggestions and feedback from residents, contractors, agents, landlords and our enforcement officers over the last 4 years.

The scheme is for contractors, small businesses and also includes landlords and agents for the first time. The permits provide an exemption in parking spaces whilst they are undertaking works at nearby premises.

Applicants are vetted and approved before being able to buy the new permit. All previous users of a dispensation were emailed details of the proposals during the consultation period and subsequent Cabinet approval of the scheme and invited to register with us. So far, around 300 applications have been received and interest continues to rise. Early feedback from new permit holders has been very positive and helps our CEO's with their enforcement duties.

Daily dispensations are still available for those contractors who require permissions to park on yellow lines or in restricted zones, subject to approval by us. Charges now apply for the annual permits and daily dispensations.

Parking and Enforcement – Year One

The Parking and Enforcement Team has provided an initial briefing on its first year of in-house operation, this has been provided to the Chief Executive and our Members. The performance of the service has exceeded projections and delivered a significant saving for the County. A <u>full</u> report will be presented to the November Scrutiny Committee.

The headline info is that the service reduced its reliance on revenue budgets from a deficit of £795k in 2011/12 to £60k in 2014/15. Ultimately this is helping keep the network moving and funds from the On Street Parking account are available to continue to assist in the provision of key services such as public transport, the HATOC proposal mentioned above, traffic management plans and other activities in line with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. For more information please contact Peter Smith or Keith Hardacre.

Parking Exemptions for Care Workers

Further to the <u>recent article</u> in the 'Insider', initial feedback from carers, social workers and occupational therapists has indicated the scheme has been extremely well received and is of great benefit to those delivering care around Devon. The care commissioning team are promoting the scheme under the '100 days of change' initiative.

Highways Safety Defect Policy Changes

Further to some debate Cabinet agreed to a set of principles for us to work to in reviewing our Highways Safety Defect Policy. As part of the agreement delegated approval has been given to David Whittin in consultation with Jan Shadbolt and Stuart Hughes to undertake trials of new ways of working. We will keep staff informed of any temporary changes and any feedback is welcomed, indeed we need your involvement. For further details please contact Andy Cole.

Traffic Signs Manual

Are staff looking at the correct versions of the Traffic Signs Manual? Were you aware that some of the chapters of the traffic signs manual have changed which means that any printed copies may be out of date?

Chapter 3 was updated in 2008 Chapter 4 was updated in 2013 Chapter 7 was updated in 2013 Chapter 8 was updated in 2009

Up to date versions can be found on the DfT website https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/traffic-signs-manual.

Please note that new chapters are likely to be released next year to reflect the new look Traffic Signs Regulations General Directions (TSRGD).

TRSGD

Many of you will be aware that the DfT have consulted on a new TSRGD. This has now been delayed until Spring 2016. A draft copy of the instrument is available from the DfT website.

Please note that whilst the new TSRGD will allow much greater flexibility with signing, it is likely that Devon County Council will introduce new policies to manage the use of some signs to ensure they are used in the correct circumstances. Details will be circulated once the new TSRGD has been released.