

Experimental Overnight HGV Enforcement and Clamping Trial 2017

To: Joint Transportation Board

By: Community Safety & Wellbeing Service

Date: 11th December 2018

Classification: For information

Ward: Across the Borough – Various

Summary:

Kent suffers from major issues because of HGV's parking in unsuitable locations. This causes danger, distress to residents and results in environmental waste in many locations. While Kent County Council (KCC) are pursuing a number of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) overnight parks in Kent it is clear that encouraging HGV's to use the parks will be key in finding a permanent solution. KCC, working with Ashford Borough Council (ABC) and the Department for Transport (DfT) have designed a zonal scheme that could be expanded to other areas or a countywide scheme. It is advised that a decision on any expansion of the scheme needs to be taken in conjunction with the level and availability of HGV overnight HGV parking. By the introduction and monitoring of a pilot scheme, the implications of such controls will be determined.

A pilot scheme, which involves clamping on the first offence, has been in operation on the A20 between Charing and the Drivers roundabout, Ashford since 30th October 2017. The Clamping trial also applies to the existing industrial estates that have overnight HGV parking bans in Ashford. This report summarises the trial so far and with an update on Ashford Truckstop expansion and capacity.

Background

1. There has been a growing problem with HGVs parking overnight in various locations in the borough for many years. This has resulted in a number of restrictions being put in place to prohibit the parking of HGVs overnight. The first ban prohibiting the parking of HGVs between 20.00 and 07.00 the following day was put in place at the Orbital Park and Ashford Business Park Sevington in 2003. ABC has piloted various enforcement initiatives to address this growing problem. These have included the appointment of Trans European collection agents, various multi-agency enforcement operations and a trial in 2015 involving the clamping of persistent evading HGVs.
2. All enforcement initiatives to date have had limited success. This Experimental Traffic Regulation Order and clamping trial has been developed by working with the DfT so that it can reflect the unique issues faced in the county. The

DfT agreed to change the current clamping policy for HGV's so that a clamp can be introduced for first time offences.

3. The Experimental Traffic Regulation Order was written and sealed by KCC and came into effect on 30th October 2017 for eighteen months, prohibiting the overnight parking of HGV's along the A20 between Charing and the Drivers Roundabout Ashford and included existing Industrial Estates where there was already an overnight waiting ban. The prohibition also extends for some distance along adjoining roads off of the A20 to prevent displacement into adjacent villages.
4. KCC placed the necessary signage at the entrance points to the restricted zone. Some repeater signs were also placed in known locations affected by inconsiderate and dangerous parking along the A20.
5. The trial was preceded by a significant period of education and advertising. Warning notices in multiple languages were issued by our Civil Enforcement Officers to HGV's parked in areas where enforcement would be taking place.
6. A Statutory Instrument that restricted local authorities outside of London to not charge any more than a £40 release fee for each clamp has since been amended for the duration of this trial only. The DfT in December 2017 agreed to allow the release fee to be increased to £150.00 in order to cover the costs being incurred by ABC to remove each clamp

Summary of the trial to date.

7. Our officers have continued to patrol and enforce on a regular basis on the A20 and in the four existing locations where an HGV overnight ban is in place. Our officers have also continued to monitor possible displacement HGV parking on other Industrial Estates and nearby residential areas, this has continued to stay low and the trial has had no impact on displacement to other areas.
8. The numbers of HGV's parking on the A20 and all other areas have reduced significantly over the trial period. However it must be noted that at this time of year, October and November in particular, there are significantly more HGV's on the road network due to increased deliveries to businesses in preparation for the festive period.
9. We continue to work closely with the clamping company, London Parking Solutions. Despite the numbers of HGV's reducing, we are still regularly clamping HGV's in all locations. The total HGV's clamped to date (26th November 2018) is 2073. Of which 1009 have been on the A20.
10. To date there have been 32 appeals against the penalty charge notices issued to HGV's in contravention. All appeals have been rejected except 2 where HGV's had broken down. None have been taken to the next stage of Tribunal.

11. The number of HGV's issued a PCN and been clamped more than once is 19, this represents less than 1% of the overall number of HGV's clamped. It should be noted that previous reports identified those HGV's that had been issued a PCN more than once but these could have included vehicles outside of the trial zones. The statistics in this report are more relevant and will continue to be provided.
12. KCC have undertaken further overnight lorry parking surveys in September 2018. As can be seen in the table below, there has been a dramatic reduction in on-street parking in the Ashford Borough since the trial was introduced. The surveys show a 61% decrease in inappropriate parking in the Ashford Borough between September 2017 and September 2018 with very little displacement to other areas (Maidstone and Folkestone and Hythe).

Ashford Borough:

June 2016	Tues 7 th	Weds 8 th	Fri 10 th	Average
	109	94	117	107
Sept 2016	Tues 13 th	Weds 14 th	Fri 16 th	
	96	112	103	104
June 2017	Tues 6 th	Weds 7 th	Thurs 8 th	
	110	104	113	109
Sept 2017	Tues 26 th	Weds 27 th	Thurs 28 th	
	132	138	113	128
June 2018	Tues 5 th	Weds 6 th	Thurs 7 th	
	58	83	89	77
Sept 2018	Tues 25 th	Weds 26 th	Thurs 27 th	
	66	30	53	50

Update Ashford Truckstop, Sevington

13. The Ashford Truckstop has reported that they were at full capacity 24 out of 31 nights during October 2018 and the 7 remaining nights were near to full capacity. In addition we have been advised that the truckstop is likely to increase by a further 200 spaces by the end of February 2019.

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