

Experimental Overnight HGV Enforcement and Clamping Trial 2017

To: Joint Transportation Board

By: Health, Parking and Community Safety Service

Date: Tuesday 13th March 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 good's 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.

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.

Summary of the trial to date.

6. 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.
7. The numbers of HGV's parking on the A20 and all other areas continue for the most part to be less than before the commencement of the trial.
8. Weekend parking in all locations has been significantly reduced and there is an increased uptake in parking at the Ashford Truck Stop especially at weekends.
9. Displacement parking of HGV's into Industrial Estates continues but the numbers are comparable to before the commencement of the trial. The numbers as before vary depending on circumstances such as problems at the Channel Tunnel or Calais or other unforeseen road congestion issues. Displacement parking into residential areas has not been a discernible problem although we have had isolated reports.
10. 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

11. 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 clamped to date (2nd March 2018) is 987. Of which 414 have been on the A20.
12. Signage in some locations on the A20 where HGV's were continuing to park has been increased by KCC and this has had some additional affect in reducing the numbers parking at these locations.
13. To date there have been 16 appeals against the penalty charge notices. All appeals have been rejected and none have been taken to the next stage of Tribunal.
14. There have been no significant incidents of conflict with the HGV drivers however over the last two weeks three clamps have been removed by drivers who have then driven away. These incidents have all been reported to the police.
15. The number of HGV's issued a PCN more than once remains very low.
16. Recent discussions on HGV enforcement and the provision of overnight parking have also included a representative from the Road Haulage Association (RHA) and ABC, KCC and DfT will continue to work with the RHA to ensure the enforcement approach works alongside the delivery of further lorry parking provision and providing better working conditions for lorry drivers.

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