

Buckland Parish Council

Policy on Signs and Road Markings

On 10th June 2013, Buckland Parish Council (“Council”) resolved to accept the recommendations of a paper, written to introduce a traffic sign de-cluttering initiative throughout the parish.

A key aim of the initiative had been to remove road signs and their posts which no longer had a useful purpose and to improve the conspicuity of the signs deemed to be of most benefit.

The initiative was fully supported by the Surrey County Council (“SCC”) Highways, the Highway Authority, and, following a period of consultation with the local community, was implemented by SCC Highways contractors. The work was completed during the second half of 2013.

Policy on Signs and Road Markings

Buckland is a rural village, located within the Surrey Hills, an area of outstanding beauty and this policy is designed to protect the rural nature of the village and discourage a gradual “urbanisation” of the parish.

Since the implementation of the decluttering initiative, Council has discouraged the introduction of new signs and road markings, except to address issues of safety.

Council discourages:

- Road markings on rural roads, especially if their use could encourage faster driving because of a reduction in a driver’s perception of reduced risk;
- Road signs not included in the Traffic Sign Regulations and General Directions, 2002 (TSRGD) installed by the Highway Authority;
- Tourist information signs (white lettering on a brown background);
- Signs of a commercial nature other than those associated with a local business and wholly contained within the curtilage of the business premises provided any such signs comply with the latest planning policy guidelines issued by HM Government¹ and, if illuminated, are only lit during business operating hours;
- Event advertising unless an event will be beneficial to Buckland residents and only then on the understanding that no more than one event will be promoted at any given time, that signs will be displayed no earlier than two weeks prior to the event and signs will be removed promptly after the event.

Council notes that:

- No-one at SCC can grant approval to a member of the public to install a sign on a highway verge or on highways street furniture
- Even if a sign for a village event is considered acceptable by a section of the local community, and is only installed for a short period of time prior to the planned event, Surrey Highways will still have to respond to any complaint they receive about a sign.

For the avoidance of doubt, Council has instructed the Clerk to seek to secure the removal of any sign that appears in Buckland that could reasonably be considered inappropriate, untimely, potentially misleading or a safety hazard.

Safety Improvements

Council is committed to work with the Highway Authority to maintain and improve the safety of roads in the parish. As part of this the Council will review all accident statistics for the parish on an annual basis and request a safety review by the Highway Authority where deemed appropriate with a view to preventing further accidents.

Adopted: 8th May 2017.

Proposed next review date: March 2019.

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¹ DCLG Outside advertisements and signs – a guide for advertisers, issued 2007.