



Highways, Transportation & Waste

Ashford Highways Depot
Henwood Industrial Estate
Javelin Way, Ashford
Kent, TN24 8AD

Phone: 03000 418181
Ask for: Andy Corcoran
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7th May 2014

Dear Sir / Madam,

As you are probably aware an experimental scheme prohibiting large vehicles from travelling through various roads in the south west of the borough of Maidstone has been in operation since the early part of 2013. This scheme was given the legal backing by the use of an experimental Traffic Regulation Order. This aims were to prohibit large goods vehicles from travelling through local communities by diverting them onto more suitable roads.

The consultation for the scheme ended in November 2013 and all the representations on the scheme was reported to the 22nd January 2014 meeting of the local Maidstone Joint Transportation Board. At this meeting the recommendation to make the experimental restriction permanent was approved. It was also agreed to include additional roads in to the scheme to avoid the potential of large vehicles trying to avoid the restricted area by using even less suitable routes. A full record of this meeting can be found at www.maidstone.gov.uk following the links to council meetings, minutes & agendas.

Two further traffic regulation orders are to be published in the next few weeks. One giving permanent effect to the experimental scheme and the other giving notice of the intention to include additional roads in the current scheme as approved at the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board.

It should be noted that exemptions are provided to the restrictions for; access to land & properties, permit holders, vehicles engaged agricultural activities, emergency services, authorities in pursuance of statutory powers and vehicles engaged in such building operations as maintenance, improvement or demolition. Full details are contained within the traffic regulation orders. If you are or know a business in the area whose operations have been unduly affected by this restriction then it may be possible for the business to apply for an exemption permit.

Exemption permits allow large vehicles to enter the restriction whilst on local business. In keeping with the original aims of the restriction permits will generally, but not exclusively, be offered to local companies based in the area bordered by the A228 in the west, A229 in the east, A26 in the north and the A21 / A262 in the south. Permits will not normally be offered to companies outside this area.

Permits will be vehicle specific and will only be issued for vehicles with a plated gross vehicle weight over 7.5 tonnes. To apply for a permit companies must be able to demonstrate that they are making local deliveries / collections which are being unduly restricted. Permits will not be issued simply to facilitate the making of shorter journeys if a more suitable route exists. This will require companies providing:

- Specific locations accessed for which permits are required
- Number of permits required (along with justification)
- Gross vehicle weights of the vehicles requiring permits
- Current routes used as well as some indication of the hardship, financial or otherwise, imposed by the use of these routes
- Proposed routes which would be taken utilising the permits
- Number of times per week the restriction would be entered

Permits will remain the property of Kent County Council and are issued at its discretion. Permits may be revoked at any time by Kent County Council if it feels that companies are not abiding by the spirit in which their use was agreed. If you require any further information with regards to the contents of this letter or wish to apply for a permit please contact Andy Corcoran using the details provided at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Corcoran
Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager