



Highways & Transportation

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

Phone: 08458 247 800
Ask for: Andy Corcoran
Email: andy.corcoran@kent.gov.uk

13th September 2013

Dear Sirs,

As you are probably aware signs prohibiting large vehicles from travelling through Yalding and Collier Street were completed in May 2013. These signs are given legal backing by an experimental Traffic Regulation Order. This aims to prohibit large goods vehicles from travelling through Collier Street and Yalding by diverting them onto more suitable roads. However, the order does allow large vehicles to access and egress properties / businesses within the restricted area.

This experimental order is currently under consultation which will draw to a close on the 7th November 2013. Following which the scheme will be reviewed by analysing all public responses and by carrying out heavy goods vehicle traffic flow surveys. Once the review has been concluded the findings of the scheme will be reported to the January 2014 meeting of the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board. At this meeting the Board, which is sat on by both County and District Councillors, will be asked to make a recommendation on whether the scheme is to remain, be removed or altered. If you have not yet responded to this consultation and would like your views considered or wish to make additional comments please email Andy Corcoran at andy.corcoran@kent.gov.uk or write in to the Ashford Highways Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

It has been brought to the Council's attention that a number of businesses in the area are having their operations unduly affected by this restriction. As such the Council would like to offer exemption permits to allow large vehicles to enter the restriction whilst on local business. In keeping with the original aims of the restriction these will only be offered to local companies meeting the criteria overleaf. It should be noted that there is already total exemption for any vehicles delivering, collecting or carrying out any agricultural activity within the zone itself.

Eligibility criteria:

- Permits will only be issued 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 cannot be offered to companies outside this area. Even if serving local premises. This would make the scheme too difficult to administer in terms of both proving the business need and issuing vehicle specific permits. In addition to the fact that vehicles coming from outside the area should be using the most appropriate routes.
- Permits will be vehicle specific and will only be issued for vehicles with a plated gross vehicle weight over 7.5 tonnes.
- Upon application 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:
 - o Specific locations accessed for which permits are required
 - o Number of permits required (along with justification)
 - o Gross vehicle weights of the vehicles requiring permits
 - o Current routes used as well as some indication of the hardship, financial or otherwise, imposed by the use of these routes
 - o Proposed routes which would be taken utilising the permits
 - o Number of times per week the restriction would be entered

Permits will be valid until the 16th June 2014 by which time the experimental scheme must, by law, have been made permanent or rescinded and any final decision will have been implemented. 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 would like to discuss these permits in more detail or wish to make an application 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