

Dear Parish Clerk

As you may be aware there have been a number of concerns raised about the lack of parking enforcement in Rother district. The enforcement of on-street parking restrictions across Rother is currently the responsibility of Sussex Police as a criminal matter under the Road Traffic Act. The top priority for Sussex Police is the prevention and detection of crime. They cannot give parking enforcement the level of attention that the public might expect and state they will only take action on parking issues where there is a safety concern.

We have worked with Rother District Council (RDC) to look at how parking enforcement can be improved. As a result of this we will be applying for permission to the Department for Transport to introduce Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) across Rother district. This is a lengthy process and we do not anticipate CPE being introduced until 2020.

Adoption of CPE powers is anticipated to improve enforcement and have the following benefits:

- reduce and ease congestion,
- improve traffic flow – benefitting the economy and the environment;
- maintain access for the emergency services and
- be self-financing.

Under Government legislation, all council operated parking schemes must be self-financing. This means income from council tax and business rates cannot be used to fund the operation and enforcement of our parking schemes across the county. To comply with legislation we need to set parking charges that will make sure we cover the operational costs and will pay back the initial set up costs of introducing the scheme. Parking income will primarily come from the cost of permits and pay and display parking charges.

Following a review of parking concerns and discussions with RDC we have developed a proposal for a parking scheme in Rother district which includes:

- introducing permit holder parking in Bexhill, Battle and Rye,
- introducing pay and display parking at some locations where there are existing time limited parking bays in Battle, Bexhill, Robertsbridge and Rye,
- introducing shared permit holder and time limited parking in Bexhill and Battle,
- a number of minor changes to existing parking restrictions and
- formalising existing school keep clear markings.

We will be writing to residents, businesses and other stakeholders to provide information about the proposals in your area and to invite comments on the proposed changes. Attached to this email is a map showing an overview of the Rother District Civil Parking Enforcement area.

Please visit our website, from 19 **November** onwards at www.eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay where there is more information.

The consultation opens on **19 November** and closes on **14 January**. We will only be able to consider comments received by the closing date.

If the proposals are taken forward, we will draft the supporting Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) and these will be advertised allowing 21 days for the formal consultation period. If we do not receive any objections the parking restrictions will be introduced as advertised and the TRO will come into effect 14 days following the end of the formal consultation period.

Any objections received during the formal consultation period will be reported to the Planning Committee for a final decision on whether or not to implement the proposals.

This round of consultation only applies to areas with existing parking restrictions exist, however with the introduction of civil parking enforcement across the district this means we will be able to enforce all yellow line waiting restrictions. Once CPE has been implemented we will conduct annual reviews to determine if additional parking schemes are required in the district.

Thank you for taking the time to look at the proposals, we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours faithfully

Richard Plant

Consultant

Parking Team, Communities Economy and Transport