



Licensing Manager
Guildford Borough Council
Millmead House
Millmead
Guildford
GU2 4BB

27/08/15

Ref: - Application for Late Night Premises Licence for Mobile Van Roundabout off A3

Dear Sir / Madam

Surrey Police, as a Responsible Authority under Section 13(4) (a) of the Licensing Act 2003, wish to make a formal representation against the application for a new premises licence in respect of the location named above, on the grounds of Public Safety.

Surrey Police have concerns relating to this application for a mobile food van to be sited on the roundabout just off the Main A3 South bound in Guildford.

- The application sites the van in a parking bay which is marked for Authorised Vehicles only
- Concerns also that this is on a blind spot for vehicles coming off the slip road from the A3
- There are no facilities for customers parking
- When leaving this lay-by you are unable to access the roundabout you have to drive into the University complex in order to turn around

Surrey Police have made enquiries into this lay-by as it carries an "Authorised Vehicles Only sign" below is the response from Highways England: -

Information from Highways England

The legend of the signs showing white text, on a blue background – "Authorised vehicles only" is a non-prescribed sign as it is currently outside of the current relevant regulatory

instrument covering traffic signs - the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2002 (and amendments of). When the new TSRGD is published later this year this sign will be included and so will then be classified as a prescribed sign.

To meet the evolving operational demands of the Highways Agency (as clearly Highways England was then called), in the form of HA Traffic Officers, and to help increase efficiency for maintenance type activities, the HA discussed and agreed with the Police to share the use of Police observation posts (POPs) which were signed in the past using the prescribed traffic sign – “Police patrol vehicles only” or “Police vehicles only” (TSRGD diagram number 829.6). The advantages of this are clearly reduced costs and road disruption to road users than if new lay-bys were to be created. Also by limiting the available stopping points, the risk of accidents from their use will also be reduced, and so improve safety.


Following this greater flexibility in operations, newly published DMRB documents and the benefits this would bring, the concept was expanded across the network, it was decided that our team (in agreement with DFT) would authorise the non-prescribed signs in a network wide authorisation.

A traffic sign doesn't in itself automatically determine if, when and where an offence occurs, (the Traffic Regulation Order would). The traffic sign merely conveys to drivers the information needed to understand the situation such that they can avoid contravening a regulation order (if one is present). To clarify I can confirm both the “Police vehicles only” (and variant described above) and the “Authorised vehicles only” are miscellaneous informatory traffic signs, not regulatory signs.

The use of terminology such as “Authorised vehicles only” allows for a consistent message to be conveyed (that the location is not to be used by ordinary members of the public) for a range of similar circumstances, which leads to greater understanding and obedience as apt.

Surrey Police Casualty Reduction Officer also has concerns of Public Safety relating to the location the applicant wishes to be used for a late-night refreshment van, in that the potential of vehicles parking next to and close by in main entrance to the Surrey University, also an increase in pedestrian movements on what is a busy road /roundabout.

Surrey Police are requesting that the Licensing Committee take in our concerns and consider the potential risks to the public, Surrey Police are not objecting to the applicants licence and hours of operation, it is the location referred to in the application.

Yours sincerely 


Graham Barnett
Guildford Neighbourhood Inspector
West Surrey Division