MA101 2627a) TRO Update – Village Car Park

Background Council considered requests to monitor and enforce the acceptable use of the blue badge spaces in the village car park off the High Street. Numerous complaints have been received about non-blue badge holding vehicles using spaces.

Council resolved to look at actions that can be taken to address the issue.

Action Office contacted Parking Enforcement at Cambridgeshire County Council – without a valid Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) the parking enforcement team are unable to enforce car parking restrictions.

Office contacted Policy and Regulation at Cambridgeshire County Council with the following response:

> *A community can independently take the initiative to fund the formal establishment of disabled parking bays. Implementing parking restrictions requires the making of a legal order, which involves a statutory consultation process that requires the Highway Authority to advertise, in the local press and on street, a public notice stating the proposal and the reasons for it. The advert invites the public to formally support or object to the proposals in writing within a 21-day notice period. Should any objections be received then a report would go before Members for decision.*
>
> *As your project requires a TRO you will need to complete the Third Party Funded TRO Application Form…*
>
> *A £250 non-refundable application fee be taken during the application. On completion, additional charges will be levied for all necessary advertising costs. Generally, a maximum of £1,000, however, the actual cost re-charged is dependent on the publication, the size of the press advert and the number of notices required (maximum 2).*
>
> *It is difficult to provide an accurate timescale for the making of a TRO because each Order will be different, and the timescales are inevitably connected to the number and nature of objections received to each proposed TRO…*
>
> *In general terms, and where a TRO is relatively simple and attracts few (if any) objections, the process should normally take approximately 6 -9 months.*
>
> *If the proposals are more complicated, and particularly where the proposed TRO attracts significant objections, the process may take significantly longer and will also be governed by the decision-making timescales in operation at the time.*

Office spoke to experienced Officers who advised taking a more formal adherence route before going to the expense and formality of raising a TRO request. It was suggested that installing Blue Badge Only signs can have the desired effect without the need for formal arrangement.

Office contacted residents at 35 High street and requested permission to install three Blue Badge Holders only signs to their fence, directly in front of the spaces in question. They kindly agreed and the signs have been installed (at a cost of £25.87 – approved under delegated authority).