

Safer streets in Surrey Heath

For the past year Surrey Heath Borough Council has been working to make the Borough's streets safer by enforcing parking regulations.

Since Thursday, April 20, 2006, the Borough Council has acted as an agent for Surrey County Council which took over enforcement of parking regulations from Surrey Police.

A leaflet was delivered to all homes and businesses in the Borough outlining the regulations and signs were erected on all major routes into Surrey Heath informing motorists of the changes to enforcement.

The Borough Council's Head of Environmental Services Tim Pashen, who oversees parking, said: "The regulations aim to improve road and pedestrian safety,

reduce pollution and traffic congestion, improve access for public transport and cyclists and improve the street environment for those who visit, live or work in the Borough. Since the Council has taken over enforcement it has had a lot of good feedback from the public with people phoning up to alert us to locations where illegal parking is taking place."

He continued: "Road markings are put in place for good reason. The breaching of parking restrictions, besides being a discourtesy to other members of the public, reduces sight lines and increases the risk of injury to road

users and pedestrians. The regulations are there to protect people, especially vulnerable members of the community such as children and disabled people."

There are eight parking attendants and one parking supervisor who patrol the whole of the Borough including the pay-on-foot car parks in Camberley Town Centre.

Five thousand three hundred and thirty-four penalty notices have been issued since the Council took over enforcement responsibilities until the end of 2006.

The money received from the payment of penalty notices is used to fund the cost of enforcing the regulations. Any surplus is used by the County Council to make local highways improvements.

The fine level is set by the Government. Motorists breaching parking restrictions are issued with a £60 fine which must be paid within 28 days. If the penalty is paid within 14 days of issue, then this is reduced to £30.

Motorists can appeal against a penalty notice if they feel it has been wrongly issued. They can make a written representation to the Borough Council which assesses each case to determine whether the penalty stands. If the Council decides the ticket was issued correctly but the motorist wishes to take further action they can take the appeal to an independent adjudicator at the National Parking Adjudication Service.

**For more information visit
www.surreyheath.gov.uk/transport
and click on Car Parking.**

