

Community Services Committee – 18th October 2022

Agenda Item 4 Question submitted under Standing Order 30 by Councillor O'Driscoll

There were several instances of large events causing inconsiderate parking across the District over the summer. Attendees of a music festival in Newchapel parked dangerously in the middle of the carriageway on the A22 between Newchapel and Blindley Heath caused the road to be closed by police for several hours.

Another incident saw attendees of a car festival on Kenley Aerodrome parked inconsiderately on neighbouring roads in Caterham on the Hill, causing traffic around Buxton Lane and Ninehams Road. My residents are concerned that if measures to counter this aren't taken, we could see a repeat of these incidents elsewhere in Tandridge.

What steps can this Council take to work with our parking enforcement contractor to reduce these instances of inconsiderate parking across our District and will this Council consider funding a number of wardens to start attending hotspot areas for illegal parking in off peak hours?

Response from the Executive Head of Communities:

Those events have this year have caused disruption.

Sevenoaks District Council carry out parking enforcement on behalf of Tandridge District Council. The contract covers 5 days per week split over Monday to Saturdays with Sundays worked as required for specific events such as the Caterham Carnival. One month's Notice needs to be given for these ad hoc events.

A parking plan included in an Event Management Plan and Risk Assessment is considered through the multi-agency Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meetings. All enforcement agencies can view, make comment and raise any specific concerns. Traffic Management falls under the remit of Surrey County Council (SCC) Highways who are also involved in the SAG and are able to raise any concerns.

Unfortunately, this is only an advisory group so if there any specific issues at an event then the relevant enforcing agency (Police or Highways) would need to take action. In the case down in Blindley Heath the Police did step in.

The Safety Advisory Group will review the events and consider whether future events could have additional action requested, such as use of traffic cones for which permission would be required from SCC Highways Authority. SCC would take into consideration any concerns from Surrey Police before making a decision.

If the cars are parked on unrestricted roads they can't be enforced, the event organiser may choose to cone the roads surrounding the venue, to deter parking but this can't be enforced.

The car festival was an event which fell under the London Borough of Croydon for the event management. We will request these events are better communicated in the future.

Significant traffic disruption as was seen at Blindley Heath is not common and we do not consider that the current enforcement contract needs to change so we would not want to fund additional wardens. For future events where sufficient Notice is available, we will seek to recover any charges for additional services required.