

Objectives of the street works permit scheme

Wokingham Borough Council has a duty under Section 59 of New Roads and Streetworks Act to co-ordinate works of all kinds. In addition, Section 16 of the TMA requires us to manage our road network, with a view to achieving, so far as is reasonably practicable having regard to our other obligations, policies and objectives the following overriding objectives:

- a) Securing the expeditious movement of traffic on the authority's road network; and
- b) By facilitating the expeditious movement of traffic on road networks for which another authority is the traffic authority.

Effective co-ordination and management by the highway authority is therefore essential to minimise traffic disruption whilst allowing activity promoters the necessary time and space to complete their activities. Wokingham Borough Council is committed to reducing congestion and managing the network more efficiently to secure the expeditious movement of traffic. We recognise that the long term solution lies in using the network more efficiently.

The strategic objectives for the Permit Scheme are taken from the Council's Local Transport Plan, namely:

'To provide an inclusive transport network that enhances the economic, social and environmental prospects of the Borough whilst promoting the safety, health and well-being of those that use it.'

The aim of the Permit Scheme is to improve the management of the road network through the better planning, scheduling and management of activities so as not to cause avoidable traffic disruption to any road user.

Co-ordination of activities through the permit scheme will enable differences between those competing for space or time in the street, including traffic, to be resolved in a positive and constructive way.

The specific objectives for the Permit Scheme are to;

- manage and maintain the local highway network to maximise the safe and efficient use of road space and provide reliable journey times, including:
 - providing for people with a disability;
 - minimising other impacts on the community;
 - improve public satisfaction
- encourage a proactive, rather than reactive, attitude by activity promoters. This is a change in culture that will result in promoters supplying more

information to the Permit Authority, which will enable the authority to better manage the network;

- protect the structure off the street and the integrity of the apparatus within it;
- ensure the safety for those using, living or working on the street, including those engaged in activities controlled by the Scheme, with special emphasis on people with disabilities.