

Buckland Parish Council

Policy on Signs and Road Markings

Buckland is a rural village, located close to the Surrey Hills, an area of outstanding beauty and this policy is designed to protect the rural nature of the village and discourage a gradual “urbanisation” of the parish.

Since the implementation of a decluttering initiative, Council has discouraged the introduction of new signs and road markings, except to address issues of safety.

Council discourages:

- Road markings on rural roads, especially if their use could encourage faster driving because of a reduction in a driver’s perception of reduced risk;
- Road signs not included in the Traffic Sign Regulations and General Directions, 2016 (TSRGD) and installed by Surrey Highways or not required to be installed in order to comply with the guidelines set out in Chapter 3 of the Traffic Signs Manual (2008);
- Tourist information signs (white lettering on a brown background);
- Signs of a commercial nature unless the signs are identifying and confirming the location of a local business, are wholly contained within the curtilage of the business premises, comply with latest planning policy guidelines issued by HM Government¹, are not temporary signs (e.g. flags, banners), and, if illuminated, are only lit during business operating hours;
- Event advertising unless an event will be beneficial to Buckland residents, and only then provided the advertising is safely positioned on land:
 - (i) that does not fall within the highways verge²;
 - (ii) in private ownership, with the prior permission of the landowner; and
 - (iii) on the understanding that no more than one event will be promoted at any given time, signs will be displayed no earlier than two weeks prior to the event and signs will be removed promptly after an event.

As no one has a right to install event advertising on a highway verge² or on street furniture³ Council will seek the removal of any such advertising.

Safety Improvements

Council is committed to work with the Highway Authority to maintain and improve the safety of roads in the parish. As part of this the Council will review all accident statistics for the parish on an annual basis and request a safety review by the Highway Authority where deemed appropriate with a view to preventing further accidents.

Background

On 10th June 2013, Buckland Parish Council (“Council”) resolved to accept the recommendations of a paper, written to introduce a sign de-cluttering initiative throughout the parish.

A key aim of the initiative had been to remove roadside signs and their posts which no longer had a useful purpose and to improve the conspicuity of the signs deemed to be of most benefit.

The initiative was fully supported by the Surrey County Council (“SCC”) Highways, the Highway Authority, and, following a period of consultation with the local community, was implemented by SCC Highways contractors. The work was completed during the second half of 2013.

Date of adoption 11th January 2021 Date proposed for next review: January 2024.

***Disclaimer:** Hard copies of this document are considered uncontrolled. For the latest version please refer to www.bucklandsurrey.net.*

¹ DCLG Outside advertisements and signs – a guide for advertisers, issued 2007.

² Defined as the “Extent of Publicly Maintainable Highway”

³ Street Furniture includes roadside railings, signposts, streetlights bus stops, bus shelters and benches.