

## **Buckland Parish Council**

### **Policy on Signs and Road Markings**

Buckland is a rural village, in part located within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) 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 current edition of the Traffic Sign Regulations and General Directions, (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 current edition of the Traffic Signs Manual;
- 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 Government<sup>1</sup>, 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 verge<sup>2</sup>;
  - (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 verge<sup>2</sup> or on street furniture<sup>3</sup> 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. Council notes when Surrey Highways refers to a narrow road, this would typically be a road less than 5.5m wide and usually be a road where the central warning line is not marked.

### **Background**

On 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Adopted 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024      Date of next review: July 2027**

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<sup>1</sup> DCLG Outside advertisements and signs – a guide for advertisers, issued 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Defined as the “Extent of Publicly Maintainable Highway”

<sup>3</sup> Street Furniture includes roadside railings, signposts, streetlights bus stops, bus shelters and benches.