

Tabled Paper

Swale Joint Transportation Board - Information Item

7 March 2016

From: Jason Hedges PS 46011091

Subject: HGV Parking

Dear Councillors,

As discussed on various occasions with you all, we undertook a limited Operation last night to evaluate and ultimately take action against the drivers of Heavy Goods Vehicles who were parked contrary to the law, presenting a danger to other road users and pedestrians.

We had two vehicles out from 17:00hrs until 02:00hrs assessing issues in Tribune Drive, the A2 corridor between Sittingbourne and Faversham, the junctions around Boughton/Dunkirk, the A299 as far as Dargate and the A249.

We did not find one unlawfully parked vehicle within that time.

I am not sure whether there are specific factors that caused this anomaly, as clearly this is a consistent issue around the County.

The 'strategic' placing of cones around from Brenley Corner to the Harbledown Slip has appeared to of made a dramatic impact on the ability to park HGV's on that stretch of road, although all the 'rest areas' that are not coned off were full with freight traffic.

The roads around the Trinity Trading Estate did have HGV's parked up, however all were fully on the road and none presented an obstruction.

I wouldn't credit our teams with completing a 100% evaluation of every problematic area in Swale, however all of the strategic roads were checked.

In my humble opinion, there is still room to curtail the over-usage of minor roads and lay-bys with enforceable Traffic Orders, although I am aware Highways need the ability to enforce any order to avoid any implementation becoming an expensive, academic exercise.

My colleagues were subjected to a near miss on the A249 due to a Bulgarian HGV reversing down the live lane after missing a parking space in a lay-by. This Driver was issued an on-the-spot £300 fine.

My enthusiasm is not dented! I will look to gather some resources again in the near future, and attempt another check on a Friday/Saturday night.

I would be very grateful if this short report could be disseminated as you see fit to those residents on your Wards who show a specific interest in this matter.

Many thanks,
Jason

PS 11091 Jason Hedges, Community Safety Unit, Sittingbourne Police Station