

The Essex County Council (Basildon Borough) (Prohibition of Waiting, Loading and Stopping) and (On-Street Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement Area) (Amendment No.53) Order 202*

Statement of Reason

Hickstars Road is a local road in the South Green area of Billericay, Essex. It mainly serves the surrounding residential area and provides access to a nearby parade of shops. The road also is closely linked with South Green Infants and Junior School, which has pedestrian and vehicle accesses onto Hickstars Lane. The number 50 school bus serves Hickstars Lane, but further public transport bus connections are available on the A129 Southend Road serving Billericay/Chelmsford to the north, east to Wickford and south to Basildon. The nearest rail link is Billericay station approximately 1.5 miles north.

This proposal originated due to concerns raised in respect of visibility when the School Crossing Patrol is in operation and the obstructive parking behaviour that is also creating visibility issues on Hickstars Lane. It is reported that vehicles park too close to the School Crossing Patrol site, obstructing the visibility of the School Crossing Patrol operative and the children that are using the area to cross. In addition, vehicles park on the existing waiting restrictions which cause further obstruction and visibility issues.

In order to try to improve visibility and deter the obstructive parking behaviour it is proposed to introduce a new School Keep Clear marking - No Stopping at Any Time Mon-Fri 0800-0930 and 1430-1600. The School Keep Clear marking is the shortest enforceable length (25.5 metres) but does result in overlapping the parking bay area. The alternative to this was to remove some of the permit parking areas to fit the restriction in but it was felt that this would not be welcomed. It is hoped the School Keep Clear marking proposal improves safety here by deterring vehicles from parking and obstructing the School Crossing Patrol site and the children using it.

We are also proposing to change the existing School Keep Clear timings on the opposite side of the road to match the new proposal and current ECC guidance. The scheme is being funded through the Basildon Local Highway Panel and is supported by its members. Further information about the Highways Panel and the way they operate can be found here: <https://www.essexhighways.org/Transport-and-Roads/Highway-Schemes-and-Developments/Local-Highway-Panels.aspx>