

## North Essex Parking Partnership – what they can and cannot do

Members have requested some clarification around the role of the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP). It is felt that the easiest way to do this is in the form of frequently asked questions:

**1) When was NEPP set up and why?**

The NEPP was formed in April 2011 by Essex County Council to reduce the circa £1 million deficit in on street parking enforcement operations across Essex. We joined in October 2012 after the end of our contract with Vinci Parks Limited.

**2) What was happening before NEPP?**

Each of the twelve district councils in Essex had delegated authority, through an Agency Agreement with Essex County, to manage on street parking enforcement in their area. Area Offices provided regulatory support and Policy was driven from County Hall. These are now brought together.

**3) Epping Forest was not making a deficit so why did we lose the agency agreement?**

Whilst not every district council was operating a deficit, there was a lot of duplication of services. The County also chose to apply a consistent countywide approach.

**4) Who else is part of NEPP?**

There are six district councils; Braintree, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Tendring and Uttlesford

**5) Who is in charge of NEPP?**

Colchester Borough Council is the lead authority and employs all the staff. The lead authority operates under an Agreement with the County Council and is governed by a Joint Committee, of which all the partner authorities are Members.

**6) Who makes the decisions?**

A Joint Committee which consists of an Executive Member from each of the six partner authorities as well as the County Cabinet Member for Highways.

**7) Did we have a choice in joining NEPP?**

Yes, we chose to join because of the financial benefit to us in the management of our 18 Car Parks and the ability to have a say and influence in respect of on street parking matters.

**8) Can we leave?**

Yes, we can give a 12 month notice and leave the Partnership, but we can only leave on 31 March in any year.

**9) What happens if there is a deficit in NEPP's on street account?**

The deficit will have to be made good by the six partners

**10) Under what authority does NEPP work?**

Essex County Council has delegated authority to NEPP for Decriminalised parking enforcement operation within the six districts. A similar arrangement exists in the south of Essex (SEPP).

**11) Why is Colchester Borough Council (CBC) the Lead Authority?**

During 2010 the County Council asked for Business Cases from authorities wishing to run a revised service. CBC was previously the lead authority for an off street

parking partnership between Braintree, Colchester and Uttlesford District Councils, and placed a bid to operate the scheme. It was in a better position to manage the new partnership and was the only district who wished to assume that role.

**12) What are the things NEPP can deal with?**

- a vehicle parked on a yellow line (parking restriction),
- a vehicle parked across someone's dropped kerb,
- a vehicle parked in a Controlled Parking Zone or Resident Parking Zone either without displaying a proper badge or parked outside a marked bay,
- enforcement in District Council owned car parks through a separate agreement (for example parking without displaying a valid parking ticket), and
- The introduction of new parking restrictions (yellow lines or parking restriction schemes)

**13) How often do Civil Enforcement Officers (parking wardens) patrol the area?**

Daily – against a random beat pattern in areas where parking contravention regularly occurs. Other areas like Schools are visited on a rota basis. However, NEPP will try to accommodate urgent issues if they are brought to their attention. All enquiries should be directed to 01206 282316.

**14) How do we know if the CEOs are issuing enough Penalty Charge Notices?**

Epping Forest officers monitor performance related activities and regular reports are received by the NEPP Joint Committee.

**15) When will Essex County Council implement single and double yellow lines (safety schemes)?**

Essex Highways will only consider a scheme when there have been more than three Killed or Serious Injury (KSI) incidents in three years. Unfortunately 'near misses' are not considered.

**16) Does NEPP not have the delegated authority to install new single and double yellow lines (safety schemes)?**

Yes NEPP has the delegated authority from Essex Highways to introduce new parking restrictions

**17) How many schemes has NEPP introduced in Epping Forest?**

Since October 2012 a total of 20 schemes have been approved, 4 have been completed, the rest are being processed. A list of current approved schemes is noted below:

1. Torrington Drive Loughton (Completed)
2. Kendal Avenue Epping (Completed)
3. Hastingwood Roundabout (Completed)
4. Western Avenue Epping (Completed)
5. Staples Road/York Hill Loughton (Resident Bays)
6. Oakwood Hill Junction Loughton (Waiting Restriction)
7. St Johns/Ashlyns/Chapel Road Epping (Residents Parking)
8. Forest Way Loughton (Junction Protection)
9. Forest View Road/Connaught Hill/Avenue Loughton (Junction Protection)
10. Ladyfields Loughton (Waiting Restriction)
11. Roundhills Waltham Abbey (Extended Double Yellow Line).
12. Centre Avenue/Centre Drive Epping (CPZ scheme).
13. Roding Lane Chigwell (Double Yellow Line).

14. Warren Court/ Mount Pleasant Road Chigwell (Resident Parking Zone).
15. Albert Road/ Lower Queens Rd ( Sycamore Lodge) Buckhurst Hill (Residents Parking/ Limited Waiting Bays).
16. Honey Lane (Leverton School) Waltham Abbey (Additional Restrictions).
17. High Road Chigwell (Extension of Waiting Restriction).
18. River Road/Loughton Way / Buckhurst Way Loughton (Single and Double Yellow Lines).
19. Bower Vale Epping (Residents Parking Scheme).
20. Harwater Drive / Sedley Rise Loughton (Double Yellow Line).

**18) Why have they done so few schemes?**

The existing funding from Essex Highways does not allow for more schemes to be implemented. The district receives a fair share of new restrictions approved by the Joint Committee.

**19) How does a scheme get approved?**

Technical officers at NEPP investigate each request and score it against approved criteria and compile a report which includes local consultation, schemes are then put before the Joint NEPP board for approval.

**20) How are schemes in Epping Forest approved**

The Council has agreed to nominate the highest scoring schemes, as long as there is support from the local Member and relevant Town/Parish Council.

**21) How many schemes have been investigated across Epping Forest?**

To date a total of 108 scheme have been investigated and scored by NEPP officers.

**22) Why does the Partnership not implement all of the schemes?**

Not every scheme request complies with the Parking Partnerships policies or guidance documents and all schemes are subject to a limited budget shared between all 6 Partner Authorities and so adequate resources are unavailable for more.

**23) Who decides if Essex Highways or NEPP are making the restrictions?**

Essex Highways will only consider parking restrictions if there is enough KSI data to support a scheme

**24) What are Resident Parking Zones (RPZ) and a Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ)?**

These restrict parking to those who have purchased 'parking permits'

**25) Can NEPP create RPZs and CPZs?**

Yes they can. There are currently 3 such schemes under investigation in Epping Forest

**26) Can NEPP deal with car(s) blocking footpaths?**

No, this is a Police matter and considered to be wilful obstruction of the highway. There is recent legislation concerning the issuing of PCNs by NEPP officers for cars blocking driveways/dropped kerbs. The NEPP policy is to liaise with the householder first before issuing (including the measure of over 50% of the access being blocked).

**27) Who is responsible for dealing with dangerous parking outside schools?**

If there are yellow lines (single, double) or zig zag lines then NEPP can deal with this; cars are permitted on yellow lines in some circumstances to stop to enable passengers to board or alight. A ParkSafe CCTV car, recently launched at Hillhouse Church of England Primary School in Waltham Abbey, will be in operation across the Partnership. This will allow coverage of a larger number of schools.

**28) Who will do junction protection work by putting double yellow lines on dangerous road junctions?**

Essex Highways if there is accident data otherwise NEPP, subject to funding. An alternative remedy is also available to Essex Police if they deem junction parking to be of a dangerous nature although this would be subject to resources.

**29) Why so few schemes have been done by NEPP?**

Over 350 schemes have been investigated and ranked by NEPP. However resourcing pressures do not allow for more than a few to be carried out at a time.

**30) What is the Local Highways Panel (LHP) and what can it do?**

This is an Essex County Council forum. The service areas it covers include:

- Traffic Management Improvement
- Tackling congestion
- Safer Roads (including casualty reduction)
- Public Rights of Way improvements
- Cycling Schemes
- Passenger Transport Improvements
- Minor Improvement schemes

**31) How do we contact NEPP?**

North Essex Parking Partnership,  
P O Box 5575, Colchester,  
CO1 9LT  
Or email: [parking@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:parking@colchester.gov.uk)  
Enquiries by telephone: 01206 282316

Please endorse any correspondence about TROs "TRO Comments"; with any correspondence relating to PCNs please include the PCN number.

Further information can be obtained from Mr Qasim (Kim) Durrani, Assistant Director, Environment and Street Scene (01992 564055, [qdurrani@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:qdurrani@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)).