

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Home Zone?

In Home Zones, objectives for improving and maintaining the quality of life for local residents take precedence over general objectives to ease traffic movements. Roads in a Home Zone are places where prescribed local activities may be carried out as well as being public thoroughfares. The speed of vehicles must be low enough to permit such activities to be enjoyed safely by people of all ages and abilities; for example, children can play games or that people can stand and talk in safety, even though they may need to move occasionally to allow vehicles to pass. Home Zone entry and exit signs remind drivers that they are entering or leaving a Home Zone, a place where they may expect people to be using the whole of the road space for a range of activities including children playing.

The Quiet Lanes and Home Zones (England) Regulations 2006 set out the procedures that local traffic authorities must follow for designating, varying and revoking roads as Quiet Lanes or as Home Zones in England. They also enable local traffic authorities to make use orders and speed orders, and specify procedures for making, varying and revoking them.

2. What is a Restricted Parking Zone?

Because of the restricted, narrow nature of the highway within the estate it is vital that the carriageway is kept unobstructed at all times so that emergency services vehicles are not impeded. **This requirement was identified through the Planning process at the request of the emergency services.** To facilitate this, it is our intention to ban parking and loading within the estate anywhere other than the designated parking bays.

To endeavour to be in keeping with the ideals of a Home Zone, a Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) is proposed. This allows the introduction of the waiting and loading restrictions without the requirement for road markings which could be deemed intrusive on narrow roads and against the Home Zone principles. This zone will match the extents of the Home Zone.

An RPZ is an area where all on-street parking is controlled and there are signs at the entry roads to the Zone and repeater signs at regular intervals within the Zone. Residents and visitors parking bays will not be affected by these restrictions. The Zone will be enforced by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers.

The majority of the lengths of the estate entry roads (Autumn Drive and Teemers Drive) will not be included within the Home Zone or Restricted Parking Zone; therefore it is intended to introduce traditional parking restrictions on these roads to prevent double parking from blocking these areas.

3. What is a Use Order?

A use order specifically permits the use of a road for purposes other than passage. These activities are subject to requirements not to obstruct the lawful use of the road by others, or to deny reasonable access to premises.

In describing the area to which a use order applies, the regulations allow for the permitted use to be restricted to only a part of the width of the road as well as the whole width. In addition, the use order may apply to only some of the roads within the Home Zone, or to certain lengths of road. Use orders can apply at one or more of the following: at all times; at specified times every day; on specified days of the week; or on a recurring date(s) each year.

The purposes for which a use order may be made are generally as follows;

1. communal;
2. social;
3. cultural;
4. spiritual;
5. educational;
6. entertainment;
7. recreational.

The attached plan shows the areas proposed for use orders.

4. What is a Speed Order?

A speed order authorises the authority to take measures, described in the order, to encourage motor vehicles and/or pedal cycles to travel below the speed specified in the order.

Speed orders do not impose speed limits at the specified speed.

The road design and layout of the Home Zone should aim to keep vehicle speeds at or below the specified speed. The proposed Speed Order is intended to be for 10 mph, will apply to motor vehicles only and is set at a level that will permit the activities proposed for the area to take place in safety. An enforceable 20mph Zone is also proposed for the wider Teams area.