

EHDC parking enforcement

Drivers can look forward to a clearer, less congested district thanks to a new team of officers keeping tabs on unsafely or inconsiderately parked cars.

From April 16 on-street parking in East Hampshire will be managed by East Hampshire District Council and Havant Borough Council in partnership.

The new set-up will see a team of Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) – the council equivalent of traffic wardens – patrolling the district.

Senior CEO Malcolm Bray, who has been working in East Hampshire's car parks for ten years, said he and his colleagues were looking forward to their new role.

"This is a new job for us in East Hampshire but we've enjoyed our training and we are ready for it," he said.

"We know the people in this district are good folk who want the best for their community and having safer, clearer and less congested roads and town centres is something we all want. We're just here to make sure everyone plays by the rules.

"We're not here to try to catch people out but if people do park illegally then they should expect to receive a ticket."

Up until April 16 on-street parking will continue to be handled by Hampshire Constabulary. East Hampshire is one of the last districts in Hampshire to take on these powers from the police.

None of the current parking restrictions in the district will change under the new system.

Joining up with Havant Borough Council's parking service has saved EHDC more than £40,000 in set-up costs and both organisations can expect to save a similar amount annually thanks to the partnership.

Cllr Hilary Ayer, Portfolio Holder for the Environment, is looking forward to introducing the service.

"The new CEOs will be on the look-out for hotspots in the district where parking regulations are often flouted. This is particularly good news for town centres such as Petersfield and Alton which can quickly get snarled up if one or two drivers park thoughtlessly.

"We have been able to join this service with Havant Borough Council's existing operation and that has meant we have saved money and have had the benefit of a wealth of experience and expertise in putting it together."

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