

East Ayrshire Council proposes to consider the introduction of a new Traffic Regulation Order for match day parking in the vicinity of Rugby Park, Kilmarnock and this consultation will help capture the extent of the match day parking problems and help develop proposal

Back Ground

Match day parking restrictions are currently contained within an East Ayrshire Council (EAC) Traffic Regulation Order which prescribes waiting restrictions which can be applied to various streets around Rugby Park when yellow no waiting cones are placed on the carriageway.

The responsibility for the placing of cones in advance of matches has historically rested with Kilmarnock Football Club (KFC) and enforcement of the parking restrictions has been the responsibility of East Ayrshire Council and The Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA) since the introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement in 2012.

The existing Order currently describes an outline of the entire area to which the restrictions can be applied which roughly covers the area from Portland Road in the north to Holmes Road in the south and extends west to east from the A71 flyover on Dundonald Road to its junction with McClelland Drive.

This allows for flexibility in what streets can be subjected to the restrictions, however, in practise the only streets that are controlled during match days are Rugby Road, South Hamilton Street and Dundonald Road (emergency services/evacuation routes) and Holmes Road and Mount Avenue (bus route).

In the two or three seasons prior to the Covid-19 restrictions, there was a marked increase in indiscriminate or obstructive parking by supporters vehicles due to an increase in attendances. Numerous complaints have been received from residents of the Harperland Drive area off Dundonald Road, Rugby Crescent, Scott Road and the new housing estates off Holmes Road. The situation within the Harperland Drive area was particularly acute and in reaction to this it was agreed that this entire area would be added to the coning arrangements.

Concerns in relation to the additional burden this has placed on Kilmarnock Football Club staff have been raised. As a result for the current season the restrictions have had to be reduced to concentrate solely on the emergency evacuation route out of the stadium. There are further historic concerns regarding the effectiveness of the coning arrangements.

Cones are very easily displaced and the distance between cones can often present issues in relation to effective/legal enforcement. As such a new approach is required. ARA has considered what alternative options are available for the introduction of new restrictions which apply to match days which remove the need to place cones in advance of matches, which are more easily enforceable and less open to challenge.

