

Use of Footways in Beckenham

The street scene is very important in helping town centres to be successful, thriving and vibrant. So, it is for this reason the Council is keen to ensure the footways are safe and used appropriately.

Shops and businesses often use advertisement boards, more commonly known as “A-boards”, outside their premises to promote their services. Some businesses have more than one board. It must be remembered the footway is there for everyone’s safe passage and not for the extension of business premises. It must be noted that A-boards placed anywhere on the highway are technically an offence of the Highways Act 1980.

The Council wishes to be reasonable with such matters and expects businesses to follow these guidelines;

- Where the footway is wide enough to accommodate a board and still allow for the free flow of pedestrian traffic without hindrance, one board per business will be allowed and this must be placed abutting the building.
- Only standard-sized boards will be allowed, that is, those not exceeding 750mm x 750mm in footway area and 1200mm in height.
- The board is to display information only related to the adjacent premises, that is, it cannot display information for a business in another location.
- Boards cannot be chained or fixed in any way to items of street furniture.
- Boards can only be out during the trading hours of the business and must be removed at the end of day.
- Boards must be kept in good repair and not contain words or images that could be deemed to cause an offence.
- Businesses to have appropriate insurance in place to cover any claims they may receive in connection with their boards.
- Boards not meeting any of these requirements may be removed, without notice, possibly followed by legal action.

The Council also wishes to encourage al fresco eating and dining, so restaurants, cafes and similar establishments are able to place tables and chairs on the footway in front of their premises. The following guidelines need to be followed;

- This practice is regulated through street trading legislation, which requires a licensing arrangement.
- An application form can be downloaded from the Council’s web site www.bromley.gov.uk or by telephoning 020 8313 4545.
- On receipt of the application an officer will visit the site to determine suitability and advise on any special conditions.
- Tables and chairs placed on the footway without a licence will be treated as illegal street trading that could lead to legal action being taken for this offence.