

## 'H' Bar Markings Policy

'H' bar markings are an advisory road marking placed across a vehicular crossing where the kerb has been dropped to permit vehicular access between an off street parking place on a drive or private parking area and the Public Highway.

Further information on these markings can be found below:

### **What is a 'H' bar road marking?**

It is a road marking, shaped like an elongated H that is placed across a vehicular access or driveway. It is used to remind drivers that they should not park in front of dropped kerb vehicular access points.

'H' bar Markings have no formal status in law and as such are not intended to resolve neighbour disputes.

Please note that this does not mean that all dropped kerb driveways are eligible to be highlighted with an advisory white 'H' bar marking.

### **Locations**

The markings are deemed to be appropriate adjacent to schools, offices and shops or any premises which attract drivers from a wider area and will therefore not normally be considered for exclusively residential areas.

Markings will not be provided on the opposite side of the carriageway, outside another resident's property or directly adjacent to the applicants drop crossing.

'H' bar markings will only therefore be provided at locations where one of the following criteria apply and there is evidence of persistent obstructive parking:

- Lengths of Public Highway that are subject to Limited Waiting Restrictions.
- Parking caused by local facilities, such as shops, public houses, schools etc.
- Private accesses to at least three or more properties.
- Private accesses for households where an occupant is in receipt of either the higher or lower rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment or a Doctor's letter confirming that, in the Doctor's opinion, they would have been eligible for the benefit if they were to apply for it and they were under 65 years of age;
- And any other special location subject to the support of the relevant Ward Members and of the Cabinet Member.

Please note - If the dropped kerb extends across two vehicular entrances an application will need to be received from both properties before a H-marking will be considered.

### **Can they be legally enforced?**

H' bars are a nationally recognised marking, and give West Midlands Police additional evidence which may allow them to issue a fixed penalty notice for obstruction.

Please note that, for enforcement, the presence of a white 'H' bar is not necessary because the law is being broken every time obstructive parking takes place across any dropped kerb driveway causing obstruction. The enforcement of obstruction remains with the Police.

### **Can I use the 'H' bar to reserve a parking space for my own vehicle?**

The marking is provided solely to highlight the presence of a driveway. If you park your own vehicle there, it devalues the meaning of the marking, and shows to other drivers that you do not need access to the driveway. 'H' bars which are continually parked over by the resident could be removed.

### How long can the marking be?

The marking is only intended to define the width of the vehicular access and as such are only marked between the top of each drop kerb either side of the driveway as shown in the image below. Vehicle crossings covering 2 driveways will require a H-mark to run the entire length. We are unable to cover single driveways in this situation.



### Applying for a H bar

If you consider your property would benefit from the introduction of a H bar marking you can apply using the H Bar Marking Application Form which can be accessed here: [Form H001 – H Bar Application](#)

### Measuring for a new H bar

When applying for a new H bar marking please ensure that you measure from the start of the first dropped kerb (where it abuts the full face kerb, shown as point A above), across the full width of the drive to the end of corresponding dropped kerb (point B above). For reference a standard kerbstone is approximately 0.9m long.

### Fees and Charges

There is a standard fee for installing a H bar marking (up to 6m in length) of £350. This cost includes both the administration fee and cost to physically carry out the work. For H bar marks longer than 6m please contact us at [hbar@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:hbar@solihull.gov.uk) prior to completing the application fee.

The charge referenced above does not apply where applications are made for households where an occupant is in receipt of the higher or lower rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, or a Doctor's letter confirming that, they would have been eligible for the allowance if they were to apply for it and were under 65 years of age.

For applications spanning two or more properties a single charge will apply, this can be split equally across applicants or paid as one installment but the full amount will need to be paid in advance of any work taking place.

### Timing of works

For H Bar applications of 6m and under in length, please complete and submit the application form by email to [hbar@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:hbar@solihull.gov.uk). We will then review and let you know within 28 days whether it has been successful. When we contact you we will send you a plan showing you the proposed extent of the new H Bar, along with a reference number which you can use to pay the application fee online if you wish to proceed.

Once we have received confirmation that the fee has been paid, the works typically take between 6-8 weeks from ordering before they are installed. Please note that if the location is scheduled for resurfacing at a point within the next 3 months, H bar markings will not be laid until after those works have been completed.

### Review of a H bar

H bar markings will be reviewed when a road is resurfaced and removed if no longer necessary.

### Appeals relating to a decision on an H bar

If your application for a H Bar is refused, you may appeal against the decision. You will be notified in writing with the grounds for our decision. On receipt of any such refusal you may appeal the decision by emailing [hbar@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:hbar@solihull.gov.uk) within 28 days of receipt of the refusal notification.

We will then consult Ward Members and provide them with a copy of your appeal for their consideration prior to sending the matter to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport for a final decision.

**Need Further information?**

If you require further information or a printed copy of the application, you can contact us using the details below:

**Email:** [hbar@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:hbar@solihull.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 0121 704 8000

**Post:** Highways Management,  
Economy and Infrastructure Directorate,  
Solihull Council,  
The Council House,  
Solihull,  
West Midlands,  
B91 3QT.