

- (a) *which is not constructed or adapted to carry more than nine persons inclusive of the driver, and*
- (b) *which has a maximum gross weight not exceeding 3.5 tonnes.*

This definition does in fact cover the majority of motor caravans.

5. The Department for Transport defines a "Motor Caravan" as *a special purposes passenger car constructed to include living accommodation which contains at least the following equipment:*

- *Seats and table*
- *Sleeping accommodation which may be converted from the seats*
- *Cooking facilities*
- *Storage facilities*

This equipment shall be rigidly fixed to the living compartment; however, the table may be designed to be easily removable. As well as having the minimum requirements it must also have the external appearance of a "Motor Caravan."

Dover Seafront

6. Waterloo Crescent and Marine Parade in Dover offer Pay and Display parking for "cars" and "motor bikes" only.
7. Waterloo Crescent and Marine Parade, Dover are undoubtedly used for short term evening/night parking by holiday makers keen to take advantage of the cheaper ferry crossing prices offered for early morning travel, or who have travelled to Dover during the day and wish to sleep overnight to travel on the continent during the day. The issues experienced here are seasonal and undoubtedly port related. Anecdotally, it is believed that staff employed in the Port of Dover advise customers with motor caravans who are waiting for a crossing to park on the seafront. Dover Harbour Board states that they have instructed their staff not to do this; the ferry operators have not been approached with regards to this.
8. Dover Harbour Board does not offer any specific motor caravan parking other than for those waiting to board the ferries. Many motor caravans can legitimately park on the street, including Pay and Display areas as they will fit within the marked bays and are under the maximum gross weight of 3.5 tonnes, thereby meeting the definition of a "motor car." In addition, larger motor caravans and towed caravans can park on the seaward side of The Esplanade, Dover but there are only a small number of spaces available.

Walmer Seafront

9. The Beach, Walmer has double yellow lines along its entire western (land) side, with unrestricted parking on the eastern (sea) side.
10. The Beach, Walmer, is a residential road with houses on the western (land) side offering an unrestricted view of the beachfront and the English Channel. This road frequently experiences motor caravans parking in it. Anecdotal evidence suggest that these motor caravans are either used by visitors/campers who are seeking to stay in the area for a short period of time (2 – 3 days) without using the services of a local campsite, or are owned by local people taking advantage of the unrestricted parking to park their vehicles in the long term.

Summary

11. It is important to note that motor caravans are self-contained units and campers tend to use them for all their daily living needs. Therefore, apart from entrance fees and light refreshments, it is unlikely that they contribute as much to the local economy as those visitors to the area who use local accommodation or who are on a day-trip.
12. Subject to the relevant approvals being obtained, Dover District council is able to introduce proportionate and reasonable regulations to tackle the issue outlined in this report.
13. In considering any proposals, Councillors will need to be mindful as to where motor caravans will be able to park should any form of ban be introduced. Additionally, Dover is a port town offering a ferry service enabling easy access to the continent, not only for business but also for holiday makers and we need to be seen to encourage such traffic rather than hinder it.
14. The preferred option would be to introduce an overnight prohibition from 6pm to 6am Monday to Sunday, on motor caravans parking on Marine Parade and Waterloo Crescent, Dover and The Beach, Walmer. This would enable holiday makers in their motor caravans to visit the area during the day but would have the effect of preventing overnight camping.

Consultation Statement

The Portfolio Holder for Access and Property Management has been consulted on the proposal outlined in this report.

Impact on Corporate Objectives

The proposal outlined in this report will foster improved opportunity and access.

Attachments

None

Background Papers

Parking Services Files.

ROGER WALTON

Director of Environment and Corporate Assets

The officer to whom reference should be made concerning inspection of the background papers is the Head of Community Safety, CCTV and Parking, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ. Telephone: (01304) 821199, Extension 2054