

Essex Highways

Highways Practice Note 012

The provision of
Neighbourhood Watch
(NW) & No Cold Calling
Zone (NCCZ) Signs

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The provision of Neighbourhood Watch (NW) & No Cold Calling Zone (NCCZ) Signs

1. Scope

To provide guidance on the process to be completed to enable the erection of Neighbourhood Watch and No Cold Calling signs. Please note that where it is not possible to place signs on private land there is a presumption that the erection of these signs will be facilitated on highway

2. Background

There are several hundred Neighbourhood Watch groups in Essex with more than 5,000 volunteer co-ordinators covering around 40 per cent of the properties in the county. The main aim is to reduce the level of crime and to encourage a 'neighbourly' spirit which will see people looking after themselves and others in their area.

No Cold Calling Zones are a joint initiative between Trading Standards & Essex Police to ban door to door callers from an area, zone or street. This has proved to both reduce fear of crime in an area and the volume of actual incidents. All the residents of the area, zone or street have consented to the creation of the zone.

Essex County Council's policy on highway signs has always been derived from Department of Transport Guidance and The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 or its successor instruments.

3. Policy

NWS/NCCZS are not traffic signs, but advertisements which may be erected under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992 to give notice that a NW/NCCZ scheme established jointly is in operation in the area.

4. Practice

Essex County Council is not obliged to erect NW/NCCZ signs on the publicly maintainable highway and any requests will be implemented at the discretion of the Customer Services Group Manager and in consultation with the local county councilor.

Wherever possible, NW/NCCZ Signs should be erected on private property and not within the highway. Of course, NW/NCCZ signs on private property can be of any size agreeable to the landowner. All the necessary arrangements, consents and associated insurance requirements for the erection of signs on private property are the responsibility of the NW/NCCZ group involved.

Where this cannot be achieved, consideration will be given to locating signs in a suitable position within the highway, where for NW signs the Police have agreed the proposed sign locations with the Neighbourhood Watch committee concerned and the Highway Authority or for NCCZ signs Essex Trading Standards have agreed the locations with the Highway Authority.

NW Signs sign must not exceed 350mm wide by 500mm high. Signs may be with a yellow or white background and black logo and border. The logo on page 4 of this document must be used. Where other organisations are offering to finance the signs small sponsorship logos may be permitted.

NCCZ signs must not exceed 350mm wide by 500mm high

NW/NCCZ signs will only be erected on existing posts or lamp columns owned by Essex County Council and will not be permitted on the same post as:

- Give Way Signs
- No Entry Signs
- Stop Signs
- Speed Limit Terminal Signs
- Level Crossing Warning Signs
- Any electronically operated sign e.g. school or fire station amber 'wig-wags' or advance signs relating to the same.
- Traffic Signal Posts

Signs should not be erected on existing lamp columns if there is already in place an existing sign plate (600mm and above).

If signs are erected facing in the same direction as other signs they will always be placed below the other sign. Where signs are erected facing in the opposite direction as existing signs, it is permissible to place them back-to-back.

Signs should be affixed using plastic tie wraps/cable tie which is UV stabilized and 6mm wide, any trailing cable to be cut flush with the locking mechanism.

Signs must be erected with 450mm clearance to the carriageway edge and the following minimum height clearance:

	Minimum clearance
Pedestrian route	2.1m
Cycle/horse riding route	2.4m
Otherwise	1.5m

Procedure in the absence of a suitable private land location

The Applicant will supply a completed Application Form (see Appendix A) and include a list of their preferred locations, specifying column numbers etc where possible.

Essex County Council as highway authority is responsible for all signs erected within the highway with its consent and must be satisfied that the signs will not cause danger or injury to road users. The Customer Service Group Manager will consider the preferred locations and will advise the applicant of unsuitable locations and, where possible, suggest an alternative.

If the Customer Services Group Manager Office accepts the proposed location(s) authorisation will be given to the the applicant for the signs to be erected within the highway.

Signs will only be erected by a contractor or organisation which has public liability insurance to carry out works within the public highway.

The signs and fittings will be supplied by the applicant.

Should the sign require maintenance/replacement costs will be recovered from the applicant.

The County Council will not be held liable for signs which are removed with a lamp column or sign or for signs which are damaged during lamp column or sign maintenance.

The authorities' liability policy was extended to apply to neighbourhood watch signs with effect from 31 March 1996 but is not applicable to signs erected before that date.



Appendix A
Neighbourhood Watch/No Cold Calling Zone Signs
Application

Available from Customer Services

Email Address: highway.enquiries@essex.gov.uk

Postal Address: Customer Services
Essex County Council
E3 County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1QH