

## ONE YEAR ON—A-Boards

This time last year, I published Highways Code of Practice but A-Boards continue to be a major cause of complaint at Councillors Surgeries and you have to wonder whether they have a more negative effect now than a positive one! Just to re-iterate the Highways Code of Practice:

Advertising boards must:

- Be temporary in their nature so that they can easily removed.
- Be stable and designed to not represent an actual or potential danger/cause of injury to any highway users.
- Be such that they can be easily detected by the visually impaired and negotiated by those with mobility handicaps.
- Not cause a visual distraction or obstruction to vehicle sight lines or block visibility for pedestrians.
- Not be located within 2.0 metres of any permanent or temporary sign, pillar, post, item of street furniture or other display.
- Take into account the other reasonable facilities in the area and remain at least 2.0 metres from bus stops, pedestrian crossings etc in relation to their positioning.
- Be placed to the rear of the highway (near the premises frontage unless this causes pedestrian hazard by placing their path too near the carriageway.
- Be removed at the end of each day's trading.
- Relate only to the normal business of the trading establishment.
- Be presented in an attractive, professional manner and maintained to a reasonable standard.

### Advertising boards will not be permitted:

- Where display of goods is already established outside the premises.
- To be fixed to lamp posts, bollards, seats or other items of street furniture.
- If wider than 800mm square in plan and no higher than 1000mm above ground level.
- If rotating or swinging in their construction.

In all cases an unobstructed footway width of 2.0 metres is desirable but where this is not practicable Hertfordshire Highways written agreement must be obtained prior to placement, as in some cases a width of 1.2 metres may be acceptable. In pedestrianised areas there must always be a minimum width of 3.5 metres.

Any advertising boards will be the owner's responsibility when placed in the public highway and the County Council will not be liable for any injury or damage caused to highway users.

Only one advertising sign will be permitted per trading establishment, even where in multi-occupation. It is the responsibility of the tenants of the establishment to agree the single advertising board.

Where the premises is fronted by a private forecourt, then the advertising board should be kept within this forecourt but where this is not practicable Hertfordshire Highways written agreement must be obtained prior to placement on the public highway.

The Highways, Licence and Enforcement Officer for North Herts is available to give advice and can be contacted on 03001234 047.

## ZETRO HOUSE OPENING

The new owner of Chartridge Hitchin Priory Dato Zamri opens Zetro House in Hunting Gate off Wilbury Way. The guest of honour was General Tan SRI Dato Sri Rodzali Bin Daud RMAF who is Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force and the country's most senior General, recently honoured by President Hollande of France with the Medal of the Order of Merit.

The official ceremony was followed by lunch at Hitchin Priory.

