

Road Safety – Further information

Concealed entrance signing and mirrors

What are concealed entrance signs and mirrors?

Concealed entrance signs warn road users that there is a minor junction ahead leading to a private property or business. However, there is no formal requirement to warn drivers of the presence of the junction of a private property or business with a public highway.

Mirrors are not permitted on the County's roads and are occasionally installed to aid access from a private property onto the public highway without the consent of the County Council or will be sited on private land.

Does Warwickshire County Council install or give permission for signing?

The County Council does not provide or give permission for the erection of 'Concealed Entrance' signs on the public highway. Such signs are not authorised under traffic signing Regulations issued by the Secretary of State for Transport. Whilst "Concealed Entrance" signs can be seen near private accesses, they will have been placed on private land with the consent of the landowner.

Why are such signs problematic?

If placed on the public highway, a 'Concealed Entrance' sign would be an obstruction on the highway which could make the person or organisation responsible for placing the sign liable in the event of an accident. If permitted, such a sign would create a high level of sign clutter due to the number of concealed entrances in Warwickshire.

Does Warwickshire County Council install or give permission for mirrors?

The County Council does not supply or give agreement to the erection of mirrors on public highways for which it is the highway authority. A mirror would be an obstruction on the highway which could make the person or organisation responsible for placing the mirror liable in the event of an accident.

Why are mirrors problematic?

Mirrors can give a distorted view of the road and a misleading impression of the speed of approaching vehicles. Convex mirrors will not give a clear view of smaller vehicles, such as motorcycles and pedal cycles. Flat mirrors have a very limited field of view.

Mirrors can cause drivers to feel a sense of security when entering a main road, to such an extent that due care may not be taken when completing the maneuver. Mirrors have been erected in various places but will normally have been placed on private property, clear of the public highway. However, many mirrors are installed illegally without the consent of the County Council, and may be subject to removal.