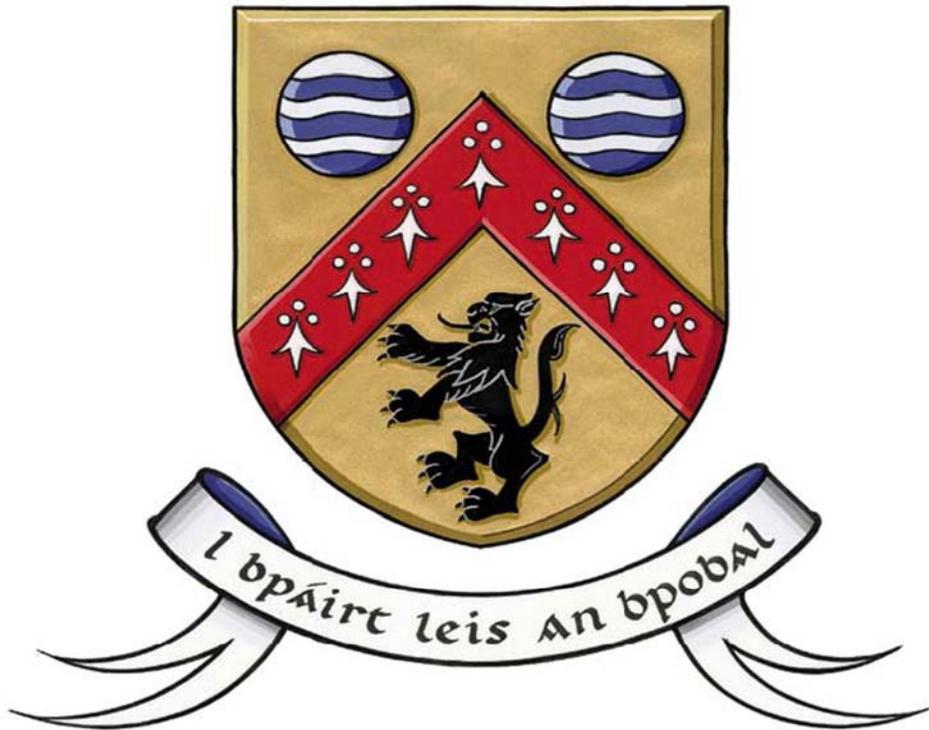


Laois County Council
Comhairle Chontae Laoise



**Planning & Transportation
Strategic Policy Committee**

**Policy Document on the 'Illegal Parking of Vehicles on
Public Roads'**

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER 2006

THE PROBLEM

Recent months have seen a significant increase in the illegal and highly dangerous practice of parking cars on public property and the public road side with a view to their sale.

This illegal practice is taking place at or in the vicinity of junctions, near bends, at graveyard car parks etc. The placing of cars for sale on public roads is contrary to the provisions of Section 71 of Roads Act 1993.

The Council is concerned that this practice is creating a serious hazard with dangerous traffic movements on the public road.

This illegal and dangerous activity has caused annoyance to the general public and to the elected members of the Council and generated a serious complaint from the Society of the Irish Motor Industry.

The Policy solution.

Implementation forthwith of the following policy initiative:

1. Any vehicle found offered for sale on the public roadside will be affixed with a sticker instructing its removal **within 24hours**. If the vehicle is not removed, or if the same vehicle is found offered for sale on the public roadside at any time in the future, it will be removed by the County Council in accordance with the provisions of the Roads Act and stored for a maximum of six (6) weeks, before being disposed of.
2. The council reminds persons seeking to reclaim the vehicle that the costs of removal and storage of the vehicle must be paid in full to the Council before the impounded vehicle can be released.
3. The Council will invite tenders from competent contractors for the removal and storage of such unauthorised vehicles and pending their formal appointment will make local arrangements for the removal of the vehicles.
4. The Council also invites the public **to do its part** in improving road safety by bringing an end to this dangerous practice by contacting Laois County Council's Roads Department with details of any such unauthorised vehicles that may come to the attention of the public.

Implementation of this policy to commence after the placing of a public advertisement. (see appendix 1)

Details of sample sticker is shown in Appendix 2.

Details of registered letter is shown in Appendix 3

Unauthorised Vehicles on Public Road – Section 71 Roads Act 1993

Laois County Council wishes to advise that it is an offence under the above Act to erect, place or retain a vehicle used for the purposes of advertising, the sale of goods, the provision of services or other similar purpose on a public road without the authorisation of the Roads Authority.

This includes the placing of vehicles “For Sale” on the public carriageways.

The owner of any such unauthorised vehicle is instructed to remove the vehicle **with immediate effect**. Failing such removal, the Council will, without further notice, arrange for the removal of the offending vehicle in the interests of public safety and amenity.

A vehicle removed and stored by Laois County Council under this Section shall be given to a person claiming it, but only if he makes a declaration in writing that he is the owner of the vehicle or is authorised by its owner to claim it, and pays the costs incurred by Laois County Council in removing and storing the said vehicle.

Laois County Council will retain any such removed vehicles for six (6) weeks. If at the end of this period the vehicle remains unclaimed and not removed, Laois County Council will dispose of the vehicle as authorised under the Act.



LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL



(Under Section 71 of the Roads Act 1993)

ADVISES THAT THIS VEHICLE IS PLACED

ILLEGALLY

ON THE PUBLIC ROAD

PLEASE REMOVE VEHICLE
IMMEDIATELY

FAILURE TO DO SO SHALL LEAD TO THE
REMOVAL OF THE VEHICLE BY LAOIS
COUNTY COUNCIL

**The cost of the removal and storage of the vehicle
must be paid by the Owner, prior to it being claimed
and recovered by the Owner.**

Upon it's removal, the vehicle will be stored on behalf of
the Council for a maximum period of six (6) weeks, after
which time the Council shall dispose of the vehicle.

Per Registered Post

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 71 OF THE ROADS ACT 1993.

A.N. Other
Portlaoise
Co Laois County Council

**RE: Unauthorised placing of goods for sale on public roadside.
Vehicle Registration NO: 00 LS 00
Vehicle Location: XXXXX**

Dear

It has come to the attention of Laois County Council that Vehicle Registration Number 00 LS 00 of which you are the registered owner has been placed for sale on the public roadside as outlined above.

You are hereby formally notified that such practice is an offence under Section 71 of the Roads Act 1993.

You are further notified that should you fail to remove the vehicle within 24 hours, or should you remove the vehicle and replace it on the roadside on any future occasion, the Gardai shall be notified and Laois County Council shall procure the immediate removal of the above vehicle as authorised under the Act.

You are strongly advised to note the following additional provision of Section 71 of the Roads Act 1993:

A vehicle removed and stored by, or on behalf of Laois County Council in accordance with the provisions of *Section 71* shall be given to a person claiming it if, but only if, he makes a declaration in writing that he is the owner of the vehicle or is authorised by its Owner to claim it and pays the amount of the expenditure reasonably incurred in removing and storing it.

Laois County Council may dispose, or procure the disposal, of a vehicle removed and stored under *Section 71* if-

- (a) the owner of the vehicle fails to claim it and remove it from the place where it is stored within one month of the date on which a notice, advising of it's removal, was served on him or
- (b) the name and address of the owner of the vehicle cannot be ascertained by reasonable inquiry.

Laois County Council shall dispose, or procure the disposal of a vehicle after the expiry of six (6) weeks from the date of its removal under *Section 71*.

Yours sincerely

Administrative Officer
Roads Department

