

Tractor Runs in Lincolnshire – guidance for organisers

There are an increasing number of tractor runs being organised on Lincolnshire roads. These are generally charitable events, raising money for good causes.

Tractor runs do not usually require a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) however they can cause severe disruption on the highway network.

This guidance notes outlines the process for organisers to register a tractor run on the highway and provides advice to organisers to ensure that these events can be carried out safely and legally.

Organisers should register their event with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Highways.

This allows the Highways Authority to check the proposed route for any planned road works and prevent conflicts with the event. This form is also sent to the Blue Light Services for their comments and allows LCC and Lincolnshire Police to provide safety advice to the organiser where appropriate. The form is also shared with the District Council Chairs of the the Safety Advisory Groups (SAG) in Lincolnshire. This also gives them the opportunity to request further information / documents if required (for example where there are other activities planned for the event – e.g. food and live entertainment).

Organisers should also refer to the information, guidance and templates from the Lincolnshire Events Safety Partnership.

As part of this registration, LCC would also need a map from the organiser showing the proposed route in a clear and legible view, any junctions that will be crossed and how these will be managed to ensure safety for other road users.

The organiser of an event should be mindful of their legal responsibilities for the safety of all participants and also any members of the public that are affected by an event.

Safety / legal guidance

- As LCC has a duty under the Traffic Management Act 2004 to minimise disruption on the highway network and to minimise driver frustration, it is recommended that there should be no more than 25 tractors using the highway at one time. If organisers wish to have a greater number, they should stagger the depart times.
- Organisers will be encouraged to hold their tractor run on a Sunday when traffic flows are lower.

- LCC will discourage the use and crossing of the Priority Road Network including A class roads, busier B class roads and Red Routes for tractor runs. The organiser should try and use smaller, rural roads wherever possible.
- Organisers may be asked for a copy of their event risk assessment which should outline how they intend to manage safety, minimise disruption and plot on a map the potential pull over areas for the drivers participating.
- All participants must comply with the Highways Code and the Road Traffic Act.
- Vehicles must be road legal and any drivers should have the appropriate driving licence and insurance. All laws will apply to drivers during the event.
- Organisers of the event must have a minimum of £5 million Public Liability Insurance for an event on the highway; however advice should be sought from individual's insurance companies as they may advise that this should be greater.

Tractor runs are not 'essential work', but a recreational choice. It is therefore important that the participants adhere to legislation.

The Highways Code states the following for tractors:-

- Section 168 - Being overtaken.
If a driver is trying to overtake you, maintain a steady course and speed, slowing down if necessary to let the vehicle pass. Speeding up or down unpredictably whilst someone is overtaking you is dangerous. Drop back to maintain a two second gap if someone overtakes and pulls into the gap in front of you.

Section 169 – Do not hold up a long queue of traffic, especially if you are driving a large or slow moving vehicle. Check your mirrors frequently, and if necessary, pull in where it is safe and let traffic pass.

The National Farmers Union recommends tractors should only pull over when it is safe and reasonable to do so. However, it does warn that the police may take enforcement action and the driver could be liable for prosecution if they see a tractor driving past a passing place or layby without stopping which could constitute an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988. Careless and Inconsiderate driving

'If a person drives a mechanically propelled vehicle on a road or other public place without due care and attention, or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the road or place, he is guilty of an offence'.