



<b>Regulatory Committee:</b>	Safety and Licencing Committee
<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Chair:</b>	
<b>Presenting Officer:</b>	Phil Cameron - Traffic Manager
<b>Item Type:</b>	For information
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	Power to grant a Streetworks Licence, to explain the Section 50 licencing process (New Roads and Streetworks act 1991)
<b>Recommendations or Actions Sought:</b>	To provide an update on the purpose of the licence and to explain the current process to obtaining a licence
<b>Background Documents:</b>	Application Form attached.
<b>Forthcoming Decisions:</b>	To flag those items that get referred on to Council for determination.
<b>Appendices:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Information (For information on the report)</b>	Phil Cameron, Traffic Manager, 01452 328964 Email: <a href="mailto:philip.cameron@gloucestershire.gov.uk">philip.cameron@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>

Section 50 licences were originally created to allow an individual to excavate the public highway to lay or maintain apparatus (such as a water pipe to feed a farm cattle trough, where the farm water supply is on one side on the road and the trough is on the other side of the road).

The licence should only be used for road crossing and not for longitudinal laying of cables or pipes.

As time has progressed (since 1991 when the New roads and Streetworks Act was created) we receive more and more applications each year.

Example: Deregulation of some utilities (gas)(this will be expanded in the future), you have two options if you require a gas connection or a repair to a private supply, you either go to the relevant utility Distribution Network Operator DNO, such as Wales and West Utilities for gas, or you go to a private company to “lay or maintain” the apparatus.

Private operators (if not registered as a Statutory undertaker, such as Wales and West Utilities or Severn Trent Water) are certified to do the repair and lay the apparatus but they do not have powers to excavate the public highway.

Section 50 gives the powers to “open” the highway to allow the works to take place, this can be cheaper than going directly to the statutory undertaker direct.

The guarantee for the repair to the apparatus lies with the owner of the apparatus (or utility company) once the pipe/cable is operational, often the reinstatement is not taken over by the utility company, this can lead to liability (for the reinstatement) for the council if the applicant cannot be traced.

We are now getting applications from Solar farm providers; these are often longitudinal trenches to connect to the local electricity network and people requiring electric vehicle connections.

Licences come in various forms, one for new apparatus and one to maintain an existing pipe or cable.

In the year from January 2023 to December 2023 we processed 85 licences, the generates approximately £42,000 income for the council.

We also keep in excess of £100,000 in cash deposits we take from applicants such as solar farm providers.

The government is currently reviewing the Section 50 process to make it suitable for todays' requirements.

