



Sanderstead Local Policing Team

New Addington Police Station
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Friday, 16 June 2017

Dear Sanderstead, Riddlesdown or Hamsey Green Resident,

Advice regarding Drones/Unmanned Aircraft

With the British Summer now in full swing, you or a family member may wish to purchase a Drone (also known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) to enjoy outside - but it is important for you to be aware of the rules and regulations around operating such equipment. In the eyes of the law, drones are not "toys" and are considered "aircraft".

With the massive increase in private drones in the UK, the legislation is constantly evolving in order to keep up with the technology and ensure that users of the skies are kept safe. As of the date of this letter - please see below for current rules for flying drones in the UK.

Drones without cameras

The five key points regarding drone operation (non-camera) can be remembered with the handy acronym of **DRONE**

Don't fly near airports or airfields

Remember to stay below 400 feet (120 metres)

Observe your drone at all times - stay 150 feet (50 metres) away from people, animals and property. Don't fly over buildings or people

Never fly near aircraft- be aware of low flying aircraft taking off and landing from Biggin Hill Airport and gliders from Kenley Aerodrome

Enjoy responsibly

Drones with cameras

An offence is committed if a drone **equipped with a camera** is flown within 150 metres of a "congested area", within 150 metres of any open air assembly of more than 1000 people and within 50 metres of any person or thing not under the pilot's control – without written permission of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

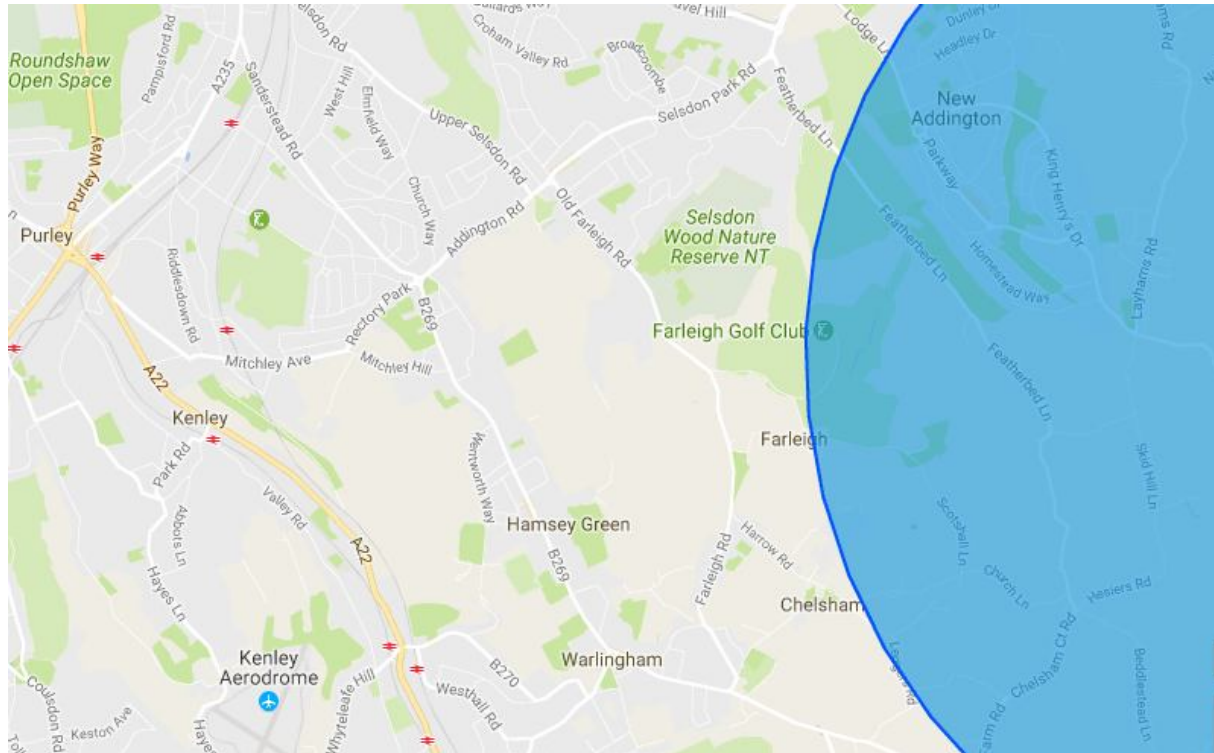
A "congested area" means any area which is substantially used for residential, industrial, commercial or recreational purposes. This will exclude you from flying near houses, businesses or from parks such as Sanderstead Recreation Ground and Riddlesdown Common.

If you are receiving payment for using a drone - for example for photography purposes - then you must seek permission from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). To get permission you will have to show that you are "sufficiently competent".





Below is the map of the area around Sanderstead showing the controlled airspace of Biggin Hill Airport in blue.



You **must not** fly drones near sensitive sites like Military Bases, Prisons, Police Stations or Government buildings. If you are unsure - it is best to avoid flying in that area. Most areas of central London, the City of London and Canary Wharf are also off limits.

Drones **must** weigh under 7kg to be flown without permission. Drones weighing between 7kg and 20kg will need permission from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). If the drone weighs over 20 kg you won't be able to fly them legally unless in certified "danger areas" such as Parc Aberporth aerodrome in West Wales.

If you need further advice about flying drones safety - please visit:

<http://dronesafe.uk/>

<http://www.caa.co.uk/Consumers/Unmanned-aircraft-and-drones/>

If you are concerned a drone is being flown illegally or dangerously - or being flown at strange times at night - please report to police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Yours sincerely,

PC Stephen Wilson
Sanderstead Local Policing Team

