



**The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP**  
*Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government*

**Department for Communities and Local Government**  
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Dear Leader,

[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

12 January 2012

## **STREET PARTIES**

I wrote to you on 18 February 2011, along with the Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, clarifying the position on road closures for street parties and reminding you of the guidance available on the DCLG's website to help residents and local authorities with planning an event. I am delighted that so many local authorities have used the guidance on street parties to simplify the process and waive charges for people wanting to hold street parties.

Over 5,000 street parties took place last April to celebrate the Royal Wedding, and around 2.4 million people sat down for a Big Lunch with their friends and neighbours in June. This is fantastic and shows there is a real appetite across the country for people to get together and celebrate national events in their own way in their local area.

Demand for street parties is going to be at an all time high this year, with a whole weekend of celebrations at the beginning of June to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, including The Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 3rd June. Many people may also want to use the opportunity of the Olympics and Paralympics later in the Summer to hold a street party to celebrate our hosting of these major sporting events.

The majority of local authorities have adopted their own simple to use form for street parties. We have therefore revised the street parties guidance so that it directs people to the DirectGov website. Here they can enter their postcode or council's name and be redirected straight to your council's webpage giving information on street parties.

If your council is one of the few local authorities that hasn't yet adopted a simpler form based on our model then I urge you to take this opportunity to rectify that. Streets Alive, the national group promoting street parties, tell us they are already getting enquiries about Jubilee celebrations so now is a good time to check that you are ready to cope with the demand by putting in place a simple form and process. You can access the revised street parties guidance and model form at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/streetpartyguide>.

Of course, I understand that local authorities are best placed to decide on what is needed for local events but there really is no reason why small street parties that don't affect the wider road network shouldn't be allowed to go ahead with the minimum of paperwork and without charges. Please do all you can to support your residents to celebrate the momentous events happening in 2012. I have copied this letter to Chief Executives.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Pickles".

**THE RT HON ERIC PICKLES MP**