What is it and how does it work?
A H Bar is an elongated white ‘H’ marked on the carriageway that is sited across a vehicular crossing where there are dropped kerbs. Its main purpose is to remind drivers there is an access present and the area should be kept clear of parked vehicles.

It is white and normally 75mm wide and only intended to cover the length of the driveway. It will be marked out length ways to and from the two points where the kerbs start to slope. It will not extend more than 1m either side.

Can it be legally enforced and if so by who?
A H-bar highlights an access and obstruction of an access can be legally enforced. For enforcement, the presence of a white "H" line is not necessary because the law is being broken every time parking takes place in front of any dropped kerb driveway making exiting the property impossible.

The enforcement of obstruction over dropped kerb driveways lies with Bedfordshire Police who will use them as additional evidence to allow them to issue a fixed penalty notice for obstruction however, Central Bedfordshire Councils own Parking Attendants also have the power to issue penalty notices for obstruction of an access.

Can I park my vehicle over it?
No. The marking is provided solely to highlight the presence of a driveway. If you park your own vehicle there, it devalues the meaning of the marking, and shows to other drivers that you do not need access to the driveway.
**What circumstances is one permitted?**
Where a pavement kerb is noticeably low (height less than 50mm) making it hard to see the difference between the raised and dropped areas.
1. Where properties on rural roads are set far back from the road and have driveways concealed by trees or shrubbery.
2. Where there is an access within parking bays marked on a road.
3. Regular issues with vehicles parking across an existing access.

**What circumstances is one not permitted?**
A. At locations where there are Zig Zag markings for a zebra or controlled crossing.
B. Where there are Double Yellow Lines already in place.
C. We will not approve applications where it is requested to be positioned opposite the access therefore making turning in easier. For issues like this we recommend reversing in the access and driving out.
D. No formal constructed access (see below).

**I don’t have a dropped access; can I have a H bar?**
No. H bars are intended to work with dropped kerbs (Vehicle Crossovers (VXO)). Accessing a property without an authorised and fully constructed vehicle crossover is an offence under Section 184.
If you do not have a VXO for details please see: http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/transport/request/dropped-kerb.aspx

**Using all the information above I believe I am eligible, what do I do?**
1. Complete the application form and provide a payment of £125 upfront.

   **Please Note:** £125 includes site survey and installation. To speed up the process and prevent time wastage of officers please ensure you have read all above information regarding where H Bars are appropriate and where not.

   Should we refuse your application we will provide the reason why along with a refund of £100.

2. Once we have assessed the site and approved the application we will instruct our contractor to deliver the works.

*You are advised that the may be a time delay from payment and approval to installation on site due to:
- enable efficiencies lining works are carried out in batches and a number of sites in the same area completed at the same time.
- lining works are not possible during the autumn & winter months (October – early March) as only fine, dry conditions enable markings to be laid.*
Once installed who maintains it?
Central Bedfordshire Council along with its approved contractor will carry out the refreshment of H bars once installed. This will generally take place at the same time as other lining refreshment works in your street and not ad hock due to other priorities and demands on the service.