



Northumberland County Council

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR
OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING**

**PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS
BRIDGE STREET, MORPETH**

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding additional parking restrictions on the north side of Bridge Street in Morpeth.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1) A Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking Place is introduced on the north side of Bridge Street.

Key Issues

- 1) Scheme being funded by LTP.
- 2) Vehicles parking all day on unrestricted section of Bridge Street.
- 3) Taxi's using the unrestricted area as a waiting place until space on the Taxi Rank becomes available.
- 4) Unrestricted area would serve the town better as a Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking Place.
- 5) There are no Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking Place on the north side of Bridge Street.
- 6) The scheme is supported by Councillor David Bawn

Report Author

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under cross-examination and the need for an order to be critically examined by an independent inspector. In this particular case, officers believe that the extensive consultation process and involvement with interested parties, means that such an inquiry is unlikely to bring any fresh information to light and it is therefore recommended that an inquiry is not held.

Appendix Index

Appendix A – Copy of Consultation Letter and Plan
Appendix B – Summary of Consultation Responses

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded by LTP
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking Place at the entrance to Sanderson's Arcade
Risk Assessment	Town Centre, inconsiderate parking issues.
Crime & Disorder	Scheme will alleviate inconsiderate parking in the area, promoting a safer environment.
Customer Considerations	None
Sustainability	None
Consultation	Morpeth Town Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the county councillor for the area.
Wards	Morpeth North

Northumberland

Northumberland County Council

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The Occupier

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Date: Tuesday 4th August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Bridge Street, Morpeth

Concerns have been raised by businesses and Parking Services regarding vehicles parking all day on an unrestricted hatched area of Bridge Street. It has been reported that workers within Morpeth town center use the area to park all day instead of using one of the free long stay car parks. As the area is positioned centrally within the town center, it has been highlighted that this area would service the town better if it were a time restricted bay. A time limited waiting restriction (time limited bay) is therefore proposed from Monday - Saturday 8am - 6pm, 30 Minutes, No return within 2 hours. It is anticipated that with the introduction of the restrictions it will allow short stay parking which will increase footfall through the Town Centre.

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposed introduction of a time limited waiting restriction (time limited bay) Monday – Saturday, 8am - 6pm, 30 Minutes, No return within 2 hours on the north side of Bridge Street, as shown the attached plan.

The County Council is seeking your views on the proposals and a freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. It should be stressed that this is a genuine consultation and that comments received will be carefully considered.

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a Decision Report, to the Executive Director of Local Services and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Friday 11th September 2015. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Dan Fraser
Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)

Appendix B - Summary of Consultation Responses

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
1			Great idea!
1			Why are the taxis allowed to do U turns on Bridge street to get their taxi ranks on South side of Bridge Street. Health and safety.
1			I was one who raised a concern. My only comment being that the area is entirely a 'No parking' area as it is located with close proximity to a pedestrian crossing. The other side of the crossing -- 'Greggs side' is 'No parking'. The area looks simply to have had the double yellow lines worn away. It would be interesting to know who the owner of the Ford Focus is who has taken to adopt the space as a private parking spot.
	1		<p>I have been trading at this location fronting the Sanderson Arcade since March 2009 (over 5 years now) and have worked 5 or 6 days a week over this period. This location has had an ongoing daily problem as it has adjoining it, the only loading bay for servicing retailers on the north side of Bridge Street, Market Place and those retailers within the south side sector of Sanderson Arcade. Taxi's not just happy with their taxi rank fronting the location between Iceland to Santander on Bridge Street seem to want to both their rank, and then the loading bay and the present chevron marked area opposite as a holding area/ feeder lane for taxi's waiting to join the rank as a space occurs, then do a U-turn in the road regardless of safety of pedestrians or other road users, holding up the flow of traffic while they proceed with this manoeuvre, often mounting the pavement in doing. Sadly, not happy with negotiating a prime located rank on the shopping street on the south side of the street they will from current experience tie up the proposed two extra parking bays and encourage further increased congestion in the loading bay as taxi's start queuing for one of the two new parking bays to come free, that were meant for shoppers. The spirit of encouraging much needed shoppers to call into the town and spend more easily will be lost. If you talk to your traffic enforcement officers they will confirm my comments. Better still get them to film it happening on their body cameras.</p> <p>FURTHER PARKING OPPORTUNITIES THAT URGENTLY ALSO NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED - Can i just say that short time parking was in operation historically on the street in the Market Place in a lay-by on the north side of Bridge Street. I purchased the Newsagent/ Old Sweet Shop in 1987 there, we now trade as a jeweller, Facets, the loss of any parking when the Market place was extended killed the passing trade as the short time parking enabled and had encouraged people to call in our case to pick up a paper/ magazine, buy tobacco, a drink and chocolate, and they could also go to the cash point or purchase things from a number of retailers in the proximity. As you know when the Market Place area was extended the lay-by was reinstated but is now prohibited for deliveries or the public to short time park; we were informed at the time allegedly because it is a conservation area. Funny thing is thoughit's if by magic it's not a conservation area between 6pm-8am as it's a Taxi rank..... can't work that one out? . Those approx. 6 spaces if used for 30mins max. Short time parking would turnover during any one day between 8am-6pm giving potentially 120+ vehicles per day the opportunity to help bring financial prosperity to a struggling High Street especially for those in that area of the town and Newgate Street. Thank You.</p>
	1		Central position in Town more useful as Disabled Parking .There is no disabled bay that gives access to Sanderson Arcade for Blue Badge Holders.
3	2	0	