

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR

ACTING DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING: PAUL JONES

PROPOSED RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING – LAWSON STREET AND GEORGE STREET, AMBLE

Purpose of report:

To consider the results of the public canvass exercise, following residents requests for Resident Permit Parking at Lawson Street and George Street in Amble.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that in view of the canvass exercise, and bearing in mind the close proximity to the Town Centre, an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for Time Limited and Shared Use Residents Permit Parking be introduced for a period of 12 months.

Key issues

- 1) Lawson Street and George Street are located in Town Centre
- 2) Residents in favour of Residents Permit Parking at Any Time only.
- 3) Amble Town Council have requested a shared use scheme to maintain potential Town Centre parking for visitors.
- 4) Scheme being funded by LTP
- 5) Resident Parking Permits will be free for duration of Experimental Traffic Regulation Order.
- 6) Feedback is requested throughout the duration of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order.
- 7) To assist in determining the future of this scheme, residents and the community will be canvassed again after the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order has been in place for nine months.

Report Author	Neil Snowdon – Senior Programme Officer (01670) 624128 Neil.Snowdon@northumberland.gov.uk
---------------	---

PROPOSED RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING – LAWSON STREET AND GEORGE STREET, AMBLE

BACKGROUND

- 1) Concerns have been raised by residents of Lawson Street in Amble about indiscriminate parking. Requests have been made via a petition for Residents Permit Parking to be introduced on this street.
- 2) After writing to residents of Lawson Street in April 2016, residents of George Street raised similar concerns, and requested that Residents Permit Parking also be considered on this street.
- 3) As part of the ongoing traffic safety works in Amble, including the introduction of a permanent One Way System on Queen Street, Coquet Street and Leazes Street, together with an associated 20mph Speed Limit and parking, it was decided to obtain residents' opinion and feedback on the principle of introducing Residents Permit Parking.
- 4) The following were options available to residents of Lawson Street and George Street. Residents were also provided with advantages and disadvantages of each option:-

OPTION ONE – RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING ZONE AT ANY TIME	
ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking only permitted for residents and their visitors. • May deter vehicles from entering Lawson Street and George Street, therefore reducing congestion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for Lawson Street to be empty during the day therefore not utilising available space for visitors to the town.
OPTION TWO – DUAL USE SCHEME	
ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would allow visitors to park without permits for limited period. • Would allow spaces to be used for a limited period to members of the public during the day therefore supporting the local economy. • Would enable more controlled enforcement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents may not be able to find a parking space during the day due to non-residents parking. • Potential for increase in traffic as a result of visitors looking for a parking space.
OPTION THREE – NO CHANGE	
ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone can park at any time. • No need for residents to purchase permits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents may continue to experience perceived parking problems.

CONSULTATION

- 5) Canvass letters were sent to residents of Lawson Street on 20th April 2016. A total of 12 letters were sent to residents. Letters were also sent to approximately 25 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations.
- 6) The deadline for comments was 6th May 2016, and responses were received from ten households, with nine favouring Option One (Residents Permit Parking at Any Time), and one favouring Option Three (No Change).
- 7) Canvass letters were sent to residents of George Street on 13 May 2016. A total of 32 letters were sent to residents. Letters were also sent to approximately 25 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations.
- 8) The deadline for comments was 27th May 2016, and responses were received from nine households, with eight favouring Option One (Residents Permit Parking at Any Time), and one favouring Option Two (Dual Use Scheme).
- 9) Amble Town Council are not supportive of residents only parking due to concerns about the lack of visitor parking in the Town Centre area.
- 10) North East Ambulance Service was the only statutory consultee to respond, although they only provided comment to the Lawson Street letters, however they did not indicate any preference.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11) Feedback from both canvass exercises was discussed at June's Amble Town Parking Meeting which is attended by members of the Town Council, the Development Trust, the Business Forum, local County Councillors as well as Northumberland County Council Officers. While the canvass exercise has shown that the vast majority of residents are in favour of Residents Permit Parking at Any Time, the Town parking group are against this. Because limited Town Centre parking is already an issue, they are keen to maintain this potential Town Centre parking for visitors, therefore they have requested a shared use scheme. It was agreed that because of the close proximity to the Town Centre, a shared scheme should be appropriate.
- 12) Bearing in mind the results of the canvass exercise, it is clear that residents of Lawson Street and George Street prefer residents only parking. Therefore, in order to alleviate concerns, it is recommended that an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order be introduced for Shared Use Residents Permit Parking. The Order will be effective for a period of 12 months and the public will only be permitted to park for 2 hours, no return within 1 hour, everyday 09:00 - 17:00. Resident Permit holders will be permitted to park at all times provided the correct permit is displayed.

Resident Parking Permits will be free for the duration of the Experimental Order.

- 13) The Council has the power to hold a public inquiry before making any traffic regulation order. Such an inquiry might enable disputed evidence to be tested 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 1 – Copy of Lawson Street Canvass Letter

Appendix 2 – Summary of Lawson Street Responses

Appendix 3 – Copy of George Street Canvass Letter

Appendix 4 – Summary of George Street Responses

BACKGROUND PAPERS

none

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money:	Scheme will be financed from LTP
Human Resources:	None
Property:	None
Equalities:	Restrictions will help with improved enforcement
Risk Assessment:	Residential area, speeding traffic and associated visibility issues.
Crime & Disorder:	None
Customer considerations:	None
Sustainability:	None
Consultation:	Residents of Lawson Street and George Street, Amble Town Council, the emergency services, and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.
Wards:	Amble

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member or Officer(s):

Paul Jones: Acting Director of Local Services and Housing

Subject:

Proposed Resident Permit Parking –
Lawson Street and George Street, Amble

Consultation:

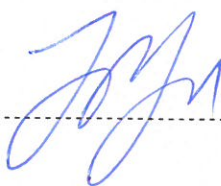
Two canvass exercises undertaken:-

- 1) Lawson Street – 10 responses received,
9 in favour of Option One
1 in favour of Option Three
- 2) George Street – 9 responses received,
8 in favour of Option One
1 in favour of Option Two

Decision Taken:

To approve the introduction of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for Time Limited and Shared Use Residents Permit Parking in Lawson Street and George Street. This has been agreed following Amble Town Council's request for a shared use scheme in order to maintain potential Town Centre parking for visitors.

Signature of Director



Date

17/8/16

APPENDIX ONE – COPY OF LAWSON STREET CANVASS LETTER

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF

• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Contact: Mr Neil Snowdon

Direct Line: 01670 624128

Fax: 01670 626136

E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Wednesday 20th April 2016

Request for Residents Permit Parking – Lawson Street, Amble

Dear Resident

Concerns have been raised by residents of Lawson Street in Amble about indiscriminate parking. Requests have been made via a petition for Residents Permit Parking to be introduced on this street.

As part of the ongoing traffic safety works in Amble, including the introduction of a permanent One Way System on Queen Street, Coquet Street and Leazes Street, together with an associated 20mph Speed Limit and parking restrictions which are programmed for Summer 2016, it would seem appropriate to obtain residents' opinion and feedback on the principle of introducing Residents Permit Parking.

A Residents Permit Parking Zone would be an option for Lawson Street. Signs at the entry to the street would dictate where Resident Permit Parking is in operation. Bays would not be provided within the zone as they are not required for this type of restriction. To make this scheme enforceable, residents will be asked to purchase Resident Parking Permits. (Currently £15 a year per permit, equivalent to £1.25 per month). A maximum of 2 permits can be provided per household with one permit reserved for a specific car registered to the resident, and one for an additional car, for example a visitor. It should however be emphasised that a residents permit does not guarantee residents or their visitors a parking space outside their property.

A second option would be a Dual Use Scheme - Residents Permit Parking at any time and limited waiting scheme. (1 hour limited waiting, no return with 2 hours to be in operation Monday – Friday 9am -5pm unless you have a residents permit). Please be aware, that if a dual use scheme was introduced, residents will still be asked to Purchase Residents Parking Permits as detailed above.

A summary of the advantages and disadvantages of the options is shown on the following page:-

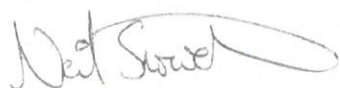
OPTION ONE – RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING ZONE AT ANY TIME	
ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking only permitted for residents and their visitors. • May deter vehicles from entering Lawson Street and George Street, therefore reducing congestion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for Lawson Street to be empty during the day therefore not utilising available space for visitors to the town.
OPTION TWO – DUAL USE SCHEME	
ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would allow visitors to park without permits for limited period. • Would allow spaces to be used for a limited period to members of the public during the day therefore supporting the local economy. • Would enable more controlled enforcement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents may not be able to find a parking space during the day due to non residents parking. • Potential for increase in traffic as a result of visitors looking for a parking space.
OPTION THREE – NO CHANGE	
ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone can park at any time. • No need for residents to purchase permits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents may continue to experience perceived parking problems.

In response to the petition, the County Council is seeking your views on the principle of these options and would welcome comments by Friday 6th May 2016. A freepost response form is attached to facilitate this process. You can also respond to this exercise online, by visiting the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>. We would also welcome comments by email:- HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk.

Depending on the feedback received, a scheme will be considered for introduction as part of the wider Amble scheme.

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 and may be available for public inspection.

Yours faithfully



Neil Snowdon
Senior Programme Officer

APPENDIX TWO – COPY OF LAWSON STREET RESPONSES

Thoroughfare	Post Code	Option - 1	Option - 2	Option - 3	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
Emergency Services					1	Thank you for your letter dated 20th April 2016 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) for access and egress in the event of being activated to attend an emergency call, or to convey patients to hospital for out-patient appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.
Lawson Street	NE65 0DN	1				
		1				
Lawson Street	NE65 0DN	1				Option one is the only way we can be able to park outside our houses without visitors + tourists parking in our street. Its about time this proposal is put into practice. I am sick of not being able to park in the street especially at the weekend.
Lawson Street	NE65 0DN	1				We think that residents only on weekends would be better as that is the busiest time. Most visitors have gone by the time you come home from work. Please keep car parks FREE as this encourages people to visit and use the car parks.
Lawson Street	NE65 0DN	1				
		1				My property 3 Lawson Street is a holiday home. Therefore parking is required all day at the property.
Lawson Street	NE65 0DN	1				Possibly traffic islands on entrance to Lawson Street or safer pedestrian crossing.
Lawson Street	NE65 0DN	1				Traffic islands on entrance to Lawson Street.
Lawson Street	NE65 0DN			1		We support option 3 - Leave parking as it is. We own xx Lawson street and it is rented out as a holiday cottage for approximately 40 weeks each year. Our guests support local businesses while on holiday in the town therefore I feel their needs should be taken into consideration alongside those of local residents. There are several other houses rented out as holiday cottages in Lawson Street. If residential parking is introduced it would cause multiple problems for owners and for our guests. Since HGV traffic has been prohibited from using the new 'one way system' the flow of traffic is not so problematic. If residential parking is introduced we can foresee guests going home at the end of their stay with the parking permit still in their car even if we frame the permit in a very large frame. These things happen. New guests arriving later that day would then not have a parking permit to display in their window. Sometimes our guests arrive with friends or other family members. i.e. Grandparents so parking for 2 cars is needed close by. If option 1 is introduced in its current form we would need to register our own vehicle at that address although we are only there occasionally, leaving only a parking permit for one other car. this means that the second guest would not be able to park in Lawson Street even if spaces were available. As it now stands, one guest parks in front of our house and if they have more than one car the other guest parks on the opposite side of the road. this has never been a problem for them. Option 2 would be dreadful for us.
Lawson Street	NE65 0DN	1				Having lived in Lawson Street for 35 years we have never had a problem parking until the last 2 years, why can George Street and Lawson Street not be residential parking only? Why can the end of Lawson Street (near the harbour) not have bollards to stop traffic coming into Lawson street and onto George street, the volume of traffic coming past the residential houses has tripled in the last year, this includes wagons and vans, which also increases the risk of accidents for children in this residential area. There is no need for extra traffic to use these streets, as it is the overflow from George street is now filling up Lawson street. Extra traffic are only using Lawson street to look for parking spaces, very worrying for the safety of the children in both streets. we are all in favour of having the harbour improved, but we are certainly paying the price for the traffic, this can easily be avoided by having no entry at the end of Lawson street, near the harbour.
		9	0	1	1	

APPENDIX THREE – COPY OF GEORGE STREET CANVASS LETTER

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF

• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: Amble
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Neil Snowdon
Direct Line: 01670 624128
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Friday 13th May 2016

Request for Residents Permit Parking – George Street, Amble

Dear Resident

Concerns have been raised by residents of Lawson Street in Amble about indiscriminate parking. Since writing to these residents back in April, residents of George Street have raised similar concerns, and requested that Residents Permit Parking be considered on this street.

As part of the ongoing traffic safety works in Amble, including the introduction of a permanent One Way System on Queen Street, Coquet Street and Leazes Street, together with as associated 20mph Speed Limit and parking restrictions which are programmed for Summer 2016, it would seem appropriate to obtain residents' opinion and feedback on the principle of introducing Residents Permit Parking.

A Residents Permit Parking Zone would be an option for George Street. Signs at the entry to the street would dictate where Resident Permit Parking is in operation. Bays would not be provided within the zone as they are not required for this type of restriction. To make this scheme enforceable, residents will be asked to purchase Resident Parking Permits. (Currently £15 a year per permit, equivalent to £1.25 per month). A maximum of 2 permits can be provided per household with one permit reserved for a specific car registered to the resident, and one for an additional car, for example a visitor. It should however be emphasised that a residents permit does not guarantee residents or their visitors a parking space outside their property.

A second option would be a Dual Use Scheme - Residents Permit Parking at any time and limited waiting scheme. (1 hour limited waiting, no return with 2 hours to be in operation Monday – Friday 9am -5pm unless you have a residents permit). Please be aware, that if a dual use scheme was introduced, residents will still be asked to Purchase Residents Parking Permits as detailed above.

A summary of the advantages and disadvantages of the options is shown on the following page:-

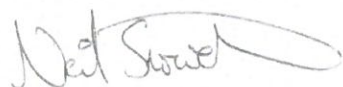
OPTION ONE – RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING ZONE AT ANY TIME	
ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking only permitted for residents and their visitors. • May deter vehicles from entering Lawson Street and George Street, therefore reducing congestion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for Lawson Street to be empty during the day therefore not utilising available space for visitors to the town.
OPTION TWO – DUAL USE SCHEME	
ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would allow visitors to park without permits for limited period. • Would allow spaces to be used for a limited period to members of the public during the day therefore supporting the local economy. • Would enable more controlled enforcement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents may not be able to find a parking space during the day due to non residents parking. • Potential for increase in traffic as a result of visitors looking for a parking space.
OPTION THREE – NO CHANGE	
ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone can park at any time. • No need for residents to purchase permits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents may continue to experience perceived parking problems.

In response to the petition, the County Council is seeking your views on the principle of these options and would welcome comments by Friday 27th May 2016. A freepost response form is attached to facilitate this process. You can also respond to this exercise online, by visiting the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>. We would also welcome comments by email:- HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk.

Depending on the feedback received, a scheme will be considered for introduction as part of the wider Amble scheme.

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 and may be available for public inspection.

Yours faithfully



Neil Snowdon
Senior Programme Officer

APPENDIX FOUR – COPY OF GEORGE STREET RESPONSES

Thoroughfare	Post Code	FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
George Street	NE65 0DW	1			A large sign to be placed at the end off Lawson Street (fixed). This may stop the traffic from the boat yard. (cement wagon's, HGV vehicles, Boats on trailers, large vans) Cars are also using the back lane on George Street. Children play on George Street.
George Street	NE65 0DW	1			I would support Option One for the simple reason that Option Two and Three would fail to solve the real problem for those of us who are retired and would face more walking with heavy shopping etc. Regarding Lawson Street could not one side, or a portion of it, be for non permit holders. As far more radical and sensible scheme would be to turn the green space behind George Street into a large car park for residents and visitors alike. It would make a lot of sense, just a thought.
George Street	NE65 0DW	1			As a resident of George Street Amble I would welcome and take part in option one, where we would pay for permits. We have found that if we go out to do our shopping when we come back we are unable to get near our house, and recently had to park near the Braid & carry heavy shopping home. Once when my husband stopped on George St to let me get out while he went to park away from our house this caused a back up of traffic and other drivers getting angry because we were holding them up. We have watched this one way system where large lorries still come down George street and at speed and I am very surprised that an accident has not happened.
George Street	NE65 0DW	1			Support proposal no1 but this should be backed up with signs stating that Lawson street and George street are for permit holders only
George Street	NE65 0DW	1			We would vote for option one
George Street	NE65 0DW	1			No Comment
George Street	NE65 0DW	1			My wife and I would happily support either option of sole use for residents parking or dual use scheme with a restricted 1 hour parking for shoppers, although our preference would be for sole use. The drawback for the dual use would be the congestion of parking in George Street and Lawson Street at weekends. A lot of car boot sale and market users park in George Street at the weekends, causing difficulties for residents finding a car parking space, especially during the summer. There are lots of spaces free in George Street and Lawson from Monday to Friday during the day, but then the car park on Coquet Street is seldom full during the day midweek and so it may be better just to direct traffic there to park. PLEASE would you consider making the alleyway opposite Tesco no access from Queen Street as this is used as a rat run for cars using Tesco and not wanting to drive around the one-way system, and for cars taking a short cut for parking in George Street. It is also used as a car park, blocking the alleyway altogether for residents wanting access to the back lane. Traffic drive much too quickly through the alleyway and there have been near misses for children and older pedestrians. Making George Street two way for cyclists would help with their safety too as the junction between Queen Street and Bridge Street is particularly dangerous for cyclists (and pedestrians).
George Street	NE65 0DW	1			I believe the best solution would actually be parking bays painted on the street as spaces are lost due to cars not knowing where to park when the street is more empty leaving spaces that aren't big enough for a car.
George Street	NE65 0DW	1			Main problems with parking are on a Sunday when a dual use scheme would not be advantageous as residents already parked – but get visitors driving round and round looking for spaces. Available parking – particularly that on the Braid should be well sign posted. Parking during the day time during the week does not seem to be a problem at present with the lifting of the restrictions on Queen Street.
		8	1	0	