

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS THORNHILL ROAD, PONTELAND

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding proposed parking restrictions on Thornhill Road in Ponteland.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Parking restrictions are introduced on Thornhill Road as proposed.

Key Issues

1. Scheme being funded by LTP
2. Scheme supported by Councillor Richard Dodd and Ponteland Town Council
3. Increased parking at the entrance to the schools during peak times has raised safety concerns
4. Parked cars obstructing carriageway resulting in vehicles reversing back up the street in between parked cars and coaches
5. Parked vehicles obstructing residential access

BACKGROUND

1. Concerns have been raised by residents, Richard Coates C of E Middle School, Ponteland First School, Councillor Richard Dodd and Ponteland Town Council regarding road safety issues on Thornhill Road. It has been reported that obstructive parking is putting school children at risk due to poor visibility at peak times which has raised safety concerns. Therefore, a "No Waiting" restriction (single yellow lines) is proposed during the periods of 8:15 – 9:15 and 15:00 – 16:00, Monday to Friday and a length of "No Waiting At Any Time" parking restriction. It is anticipated that the introduction of the restrictions will improve road safety by removing obstructions and improving visibility during peak times.

CONSULTATION

2. These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 24 residents and 30 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. A plan showing the proposals is attached together with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix A).
3. The consultation exercise ended on 3rd December 2015 and responses were received from 13 consultees, with 11 in favour and 1 against the proposals. One consultee did not express a preference. A summary of the responses is attached an appendix B.
4. The North East Ambulance Service was the only statutory consultee that responded and they did not express a preference.

COMMENTS

5. A number of consultees expressed concerns over child safety with one commenting "Children's Safety and lives have been put at risk, due to poor visibility caused by the number of cars parked on Thornhill Road".
6. One consultee commented on the new restrictions needing extra patrol by the Civil Enforcement Officers. The area is already patrolled on a regular basis and with the introduction of the new Enforcement Vehicle, this will only increase.
7. One resident suggested installing a pick up and drop off point for parents. This idea was investigated but a suitable location could not be identified.
8. One consultee who was not in favour of the proposals asked for the existing restrictions to be removed from outside of their property.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. From the outset, the County Council has endeavoured to respond positively to local concerns raised in this area and it is inevitable that some sections of the community will be dissatisfied with whichever decision is reached. The result of the consultation exercise shows that the majority of the residents who responded support the proposals. It is therefore recommended that the proposed parking restrictions be introduced.

10. 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 A – Copy of Consultation Letter

Appendix B - Summary of Responses

Implications Arising Out of the Report

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Policy | None |
| Finance and value for money | Funded by the LTP |
| Human Resources | None |
| Property | None |
| Equalities | None |
| Risk Assessment | Residential area, inconsiderate parking issues around school. |
| Crime & Disorder | Scheme will remove inconsiderate parking in the area, promoting a safer environment. |
| Customer Considerations | None |
| Sustainability | None |
| Consultation | Ponteland Town Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area. |
| Wards | Ponteland North |

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Cabinet Member or Officer(s):

Director of Local Services and Housing

Subject:

Proposed parking restrictions Thornhill Road in Ponteland

Consultation

13 Responses
11 For
1 Against
1 Neither

Decision Taken:

Introduce parking restrictions as proposed.

Signature of Director



Date

12/1/2016

Appendix A –
Copy of
Consultation
Letter

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF
• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: HE152316-1
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Dan Fraser
Direct Line: 01670 624125
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Friday 3rd December 2015

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Thornhill Road

Concerns have been raised by residents and local schools regarding road safety on Thornhill Road. It has been reported that obstructive parking is putting school children at risk due to poor visibility at peak times which has raised safety concerns. Therefore, a “No Waiting” restriction (single yellow lines) is proposed during the periods of 8:15 – 9:15 and 15:00 – 16:00, Monday to Friday and a “No Waiting At Any Time” parking restriction. It is anticipated that the introduction of the restrictions will improve road safety by removing obstructions and improving visibility during peak times.

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposed introduction of “No Waiting” parking restriction (single yellow lines) during the periods of 8:15 – 9:15 and 15:00 – 16:00, Monday to Friday and a “No Waiting At Any Time” parking restriction on Thornhill Road, 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 Thursday 3rd December 2015. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

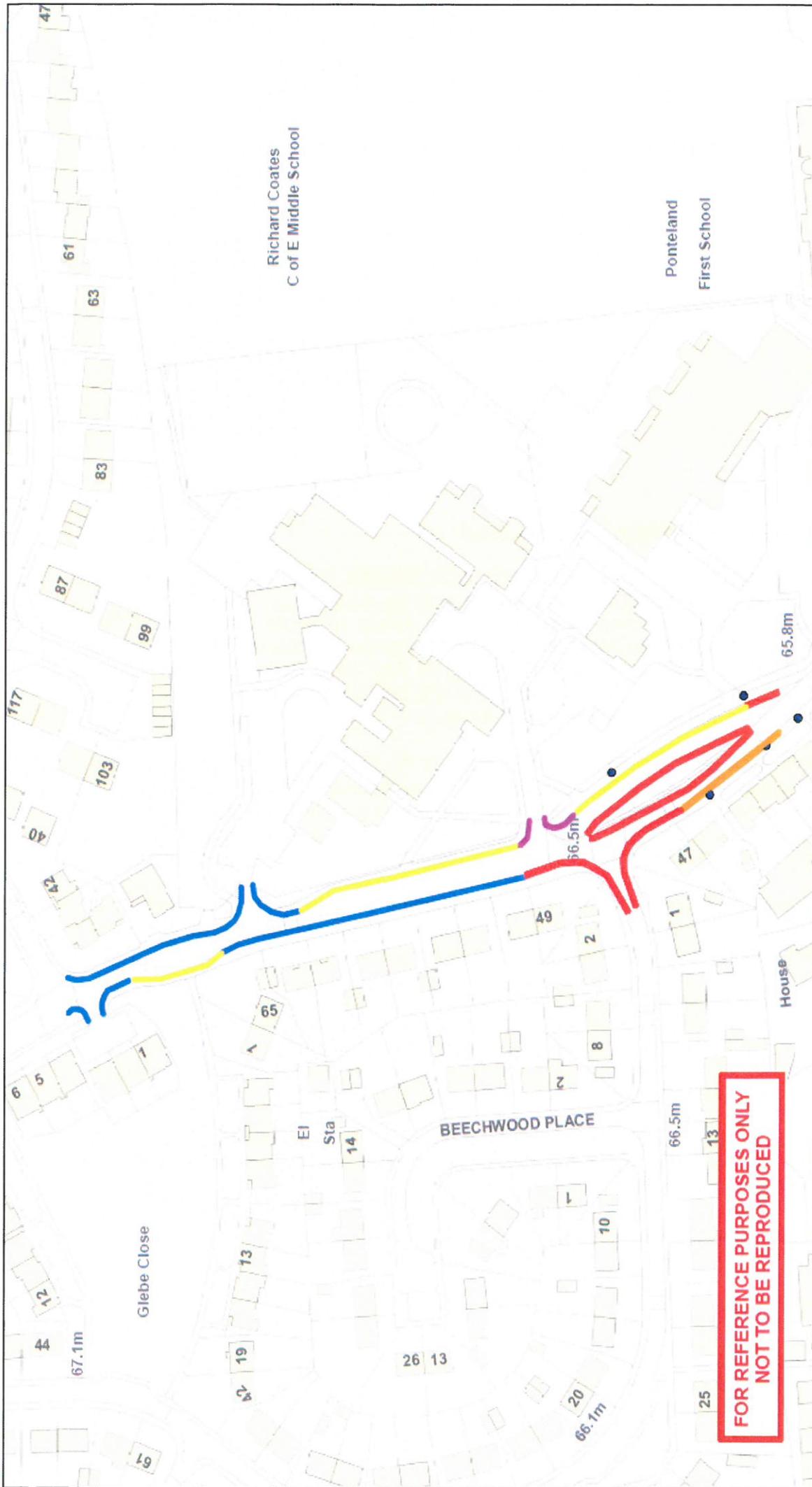
I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Dan Fraser
Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)



**FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY
NOT TO BE REPRODUCED**

| KEY | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Existing Double Yellow Line |
| | Existing Existing Single Yellow Line |
| | Existing Existing Bus Stop |
| | Proposed Double Yellow Line |
| | Proposed Single Yellow Line |
| 8:15 - 9:15 & 15:00 - 16:00 Mon - Fri | |

| | |
|---|--------|
| Title: Thornhill Road, Ponteland Proposed Parking Restrictions | |
| Drn: | Date: |
| | Scale: |

| | |
|--|--|
| Network Management Information System | |
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Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 01670 533000

Appendix B - Summary of Responses

| FOR | AGAINST | NEITHER | Other Relevant Comments |
|-----|---------|---------|---|
| | | 1 | Thank you for your letter dated 22 October 2015 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as an 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. |
| 1 | | | I fully support the proposals and agree whole hearty that at present and for a long time - Children's Safety and lives have been put at risk, due to poor visibility caused by the number of cars parked on Thornhill Road. I have also personally on a number of occasions had my drive blocked by parents/carers parked waiting to collect children. Some people can park for up to one and a half hours before the end of the school day. Often bringing Books, Food and drinks as the are there for so long. I find this also affects my privacy and raises the noise level as some inconsiderate Parents/Grandparents/Carers sit for a long time with loud music playing.- Windows open and smoking. I love living in my house on Thornhill Road but the one and only thing I hate is the cars parking/traffic at school times. The Safety improvements in my view are long overdue! |
| 1 | | | I think the proposals you have drafted out are very good. Hope it will be successful. It certainly is chaotic at times when the buses are going down to the school to drop pupils off people are parking all over the place. When I go shopping in the morning I usually wait until the schools are in as them in cars look at you as if you have no right to be walking on the pavement. |
| 1 | | | To many cars at schools time |
| 1 | | | no comments |
| | 1 | | We would like double lines <u>removed</u> from our driveway please |
| 1 | | | If its patrolled regularly it would make things a lot safer for residents and School children |
| 1 | | | no comments |
| 1 | | | We definitley need restricted parking on thornhill road ponteland. I see very dangerous parking everyday. Although i think us residents will need some sort of permit so if we have family visiting etc it doesnt cause an issue. |
| 1 | | | We have problems getting on to our drive at School times due to people parking over the entrqance. Also people leave there cars parked over our drive entrance. |
| 1 | | | I would like to see the council implement a drop off/pick up scheme for parents. Without such a scheme the parking problem will simply move down the road. We need a more intelligent solution. |
| 1 | | | I wholeheartedly agree with the proposals, especially the no waiting at any time proposal. Also as a resident I would like to see Thornhill Road permanently made into a one way street with entrances at the north end and exit just before the shops at the Blackbird end. This would only improve turn right-or left only signs at the end of the street which come out onto Thornhill Road. The lady who lives at 3 Tithe Cottages and myself are disabled drivers and often have difficulty from our homes into Thornhill Road because of parked cars/vans affecting our line of site so no waiting at any time would help. |
| 1 | | | Parked cars both sides of the road beside Tithe Cottages & Ashbrook Drive makes it dangerous for us trying to get onto Thornhill, we cant see safety until we are out to the centre of the road. Also, parents try to use our residents parking. |
| 11 | 1 | 1 | |

