

# **NORTHUMBERLAND**

Northumberland County Council

## **RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES PAUL JONES**

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### **EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER HIGHFIELD LANE PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

**Cabinet Member: Glen Sanderson**

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#### **Purpose of report:**

To consider the introduction of parking restrictions on Highfield Lane on the approach to Highfield Middle School and St Matthew's Catholic Primary School, which are required to improve road safety for children, parents and staff attending Highfield Middle School and St Matthew's Catholic Primary School, as well as other road users.

#### **Recommendations:**

It is recommended that No Waiting parking restrictions Monday - Friday 8:15am - 9:30am & 2:45pm - 4:00pm (single yellow lines yellow line) is introduced on Highfield Lane and Highfield, in Prudhoe.

#### **Link to Corporate Plan**

How - "We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone"

Living - "We want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for"

Connecting - "We want you to have access to the things you need"

#### **Key issues**

1. Road safety concerns as a result of inconsiderate parking.
2. Restrictions to be introduced as an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order. This will allow any minor changes to be made during the experimental period if any unexpected concerns are raised.
3. Scheme is supported by St Matthew's Catholic Primary School, Highfield Middle School and Cllr Stow.
4. It is anticipated that the restrictions imposed will have minimal effect on residents, however, affected parties will be notified of the introduction of the Experimental Parking Restrictions.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 1) Concerns have been raised by St Matthews Catholic Primary School, Highfield Middle School, parents/carers, local residents and School Crossing Control regarding congestion problems caused by inconsiderate parking on Highfield Lane.
- 2) It has been reported that vehicles are parking inconsiderately in both directions from the school which is causing congestion issues
- 3) Inconsiderate parking at school start and finish times is a potential road safety risk to everyone attending the school, as well as other road users.
- 4) Two consultations have been carried out regarding the introduction of parking restrictions on Highfield Lane with both consultations being inconclusive, although those who responded who did not support the scheme did agree that changes needed to be made to improve road safety.
- 5) The first consultation provided 46 responses, 21 in favour 24 against and 1 statutory consultee did not have a preference. A copy of the consultation is attached as Appendix A and a summary of responses is attached as Appendix B
- 6) Following on from the consultation the responses received showed that the majority of consultees who responded agreed that there was a problem that needed to be resolved, but didn't think that the proposals were the best solution.
- 7) After taking on board the comments received from the first consultation, a second consultation was carried out. 8 responses were received, 3 in favour, 3 against and 2 did not have a preference. A copy of the consultation is attached as Appendix C and a summary of responses is attached as Appendix D
- 8) Bearing in mind the ongoing road safety concerns on Highfield Lane, and the fact that the additional restrictions are required to improve road safety, the parking restrictions proposed will be introduced as an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order. An information letter will be sent to all affected parties in the area. A copy of this letter together with a plan of the proposed experimental parking restrictions are attached as Appendix E.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that these experimental parking restrictions are introduced in order to improve road safety on Highfield Land and Highfield for a period of one year to gather feedback prior to permanent implementation.

## **APPENDIX INDEX**

Appendix A – Copy of first consultation

Appendix B – Summary or responses to first consultation

Appendix C – Copy of second consultation

Appendix D – Summary or responses to second consultation

Appendix E – Proposed Experimental Parking Restrictions

## **Implications Arising out of the Report**

<b>Policy</b>	Consistent with existing policies
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Scheme will be financed by 2018/19 LTP
<b>Legal</b>	None
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b>  (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Areas suffer from inconsiderate parking resulting in increase road safety concerns.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	The schemes will promote a safer environment and may reduced any potential antisocial behavior
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Road users and pedestrians will benefit from parking restrictions
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	Prudhoe North

**Report Author** Dan Fraser – Programme Officer (Highway Safety)  
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**Background papers:**

None

**Report sign off.**

***Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

	initials
Finance Officer	
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Human Resources	
Procurement	
I.T.	
Director	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

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Report Author      **Dan Fraser – Programme Officer (Highway Safety)  
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## **DECISION TAKEN**

**Title of Officer:** Service Director - Local Services

**Subject:** Experimental Traffic Regulation Order Highfield Lane Parking Restrictions

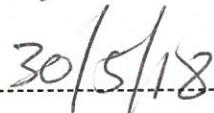
**Decision Taken:** The restrictions below are introduced as an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for a period of 12 months.

The Introduction of No Waiting parking restrictions Monday - Friday 8:15am - 9:30am & 2:45pm - 4:00pm (single yellow lines) on Highfield Lane and Highfield, in Prudhoe.

Signature of Director



Date



30/5/18

# NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

## Appendix A

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• Web: [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

The Occupier

Our Ref: HE163341-11

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Date: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

### Proposed Parking Restrictions – Highfield Lane in Prudhoe

Concerns have been raised by St Matthews Catholic Primary School, Highfield Middle School, parents, and local residents regarding congestion problems caused by inconsiderate parking on Highfield Lane. It has been reported that vehicles are parking inconsiderately in both directions from the school, which is forcing the flow of traffic to be reduced down to single lane traffic. This is resulting in vehicles coming head to head, with one or more vehicles being forced to make a reverse maneuver to allow traffic flow to proceed. Therefore, we are proposing to introduce a "No Waiting at Any Time" a "School Keep Clear" and a "No Waiting, Mon – Fri, 8:30am – 9:30am and 2:45pm – 3:30pm parking restrictions to Highfield Lane. It is anticipated the introduction of these restrictions will reduce congestion and improve visibility on the carriageway, making for a safer environment.

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 at Any Time", a "School Keep Clear" and a "No Waiting, Mon – Fri, 8:30am – 9:30am and 2:45pm – 3:30pm parking restrictions to Highfield Lane, 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 Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.



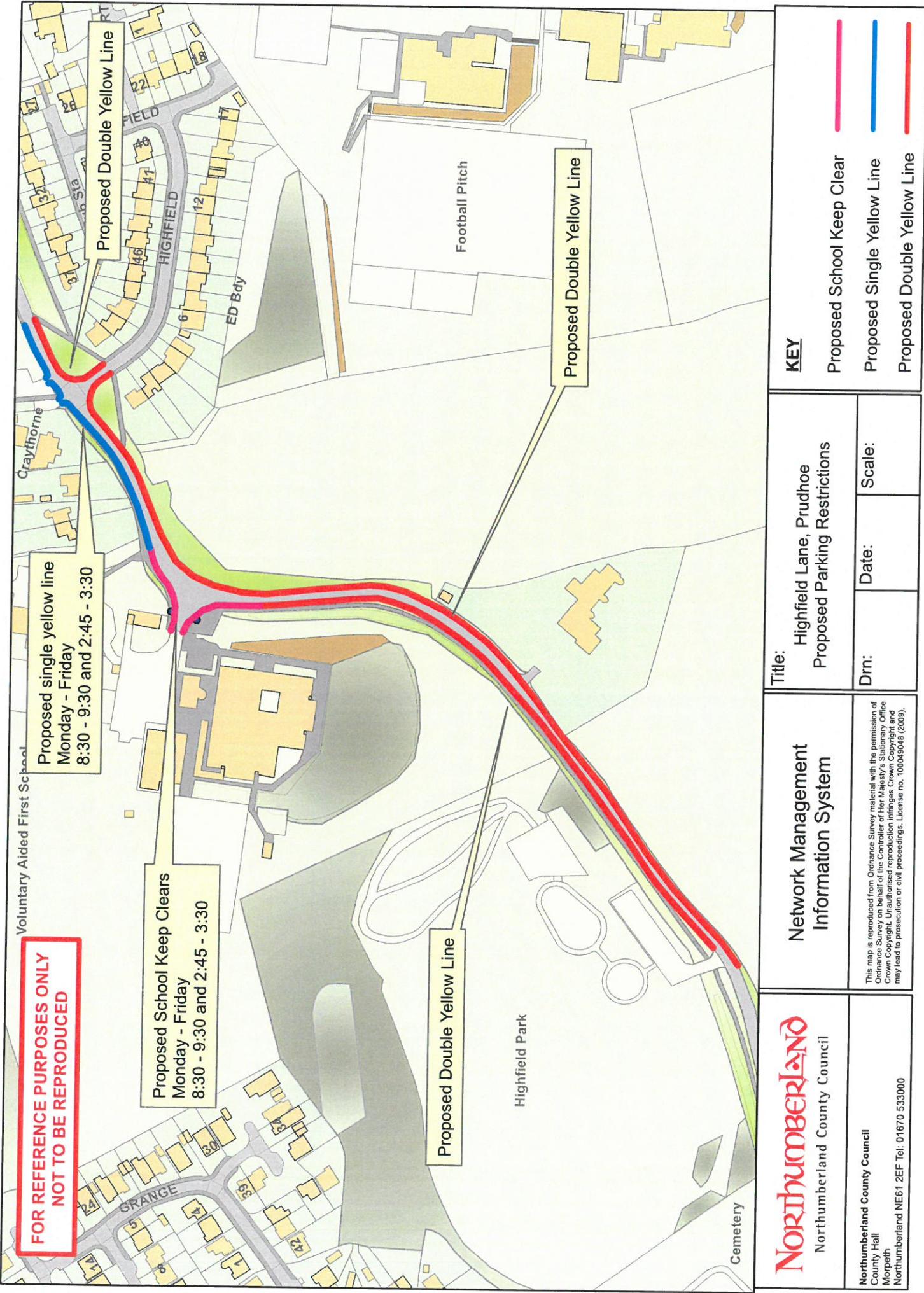
**I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.**

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Dan Fraser - Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)





**Appendix B - Summary of Responses**

FOR	AGAINST	REASON	Other Relevant Comments
N E I T H E R		I witness the problems every school day. I support the proposals and have two comments firstly the 3.30pm finish is too soon as Highfield comes out after 3.30pm and needs to be extended to 3.45pm. My second point is are there sufficient personnel resources to enforce the proposals? If successful could the centre white lines be repainted also the school warning signs on Highfield Lane?	
1		Thank you for your letter dated 7th September 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 outpatient appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.	
1		Please note Highfield Middle School closes at 3.35pm. We propose that parking restriction incorporate this.	
1		The proposed time restrictions are inadequate. Parents are dropping off children from 8.15 in the morning and many children (from the middle school) are not collected until 3.45 as this school finishes at 3.40.	
1		No waiting between 2.24pm - 3.30pm - Highfield Middle School comes out at 3.35pm so effectively those travelling by car to collect pupils could still sit and wait in this area after 3.30pm.	
1		No waiting will result in a very speedy 'stop and drop' by some drivers which will be more dangerous in my opinion with pupils leaving vehicles quickly and cars zipping in and out.	
1		I agree in principle that intervention is needed to alleviate the congestion problems on Highfield Lane. However, I am concerned that your proposals will merely passsport the congestion to the easterly section of Highfield Land. At peak times, the section of the lane adjacent to the Roman Catholic Church is lined with parked cars as far as South Road via St Mathews Lane. Consequently, there is only enough room for single lane traffic and thus head-to-head vehicular confrontation. When considering the length of this stretch of the lane there is little opportunity for cars to reverse to permit traffic flow, this often results in no access to Highfield and the driveway to South View, Craythorne, and Pendle Crag. Furthermore, when pulling away from the driveway visibility is severely restricted in both directions as to be dangerous. I propose that the restrictions are increased so that (according to the legend on your consultation plan) the blue line is extended along Highfield Lane to its junction with St Mathews and the red line as far as the Highfield Lane/South Road Junction.	
1		This road can be extremely dangerous at certain points of the day. During school rush hour there are a huge numbers of cars using the road and the road struggles to cope due to the nature of the road and the sheer volume of traffic. There are numerous examples of inconsiderate and dangerous parking which cause congestion and put pedestrians at risk. Children have been knocked over on this section of the road and I have witnessed many near misses. As a local resident we find it virtually impossible to leave our estate during the busy periods as the road becomes gridlocked. I have seen instances of "road rage" type incidents with people refusing to reverse or simply pushing their way through and I know of people who have had their cars damaged in this way. The police have been called on several occasions to try and sort the issues out but as soon as they are not there the issues return. Driveways are sometimes blocked and there are cars driving across grassed areas, whilst others are so close to the path or even on it, that pedestrians are unable to use the path! If an emergency vehicle needed to get through it would be extremely difficult. During the winter months the situation worsens due to road conditions. This situation needs addressed as a matter of urgency before someone suffers serious injuries.	
1		The risk there is very great for children getting knock down, I think this would higher the procreation of the school children massively	
1		Whilst I do fervently believe something has to be done to address the issues, these proposals would probably result in people parking in Highfield and inconveniencing residents. The question of who would monitor adherence to the laws surrounding yellow lines etc needs to be considered-- would there be a traffic warden or PCSO at relevant times?	
1			

	How do NCC intend to enforce the proposed new traffic orders? NCC recently made changes to Front Street and the side street leading to Tyne View Terrace. Despite the new TRO's, approximately 1750 vehicles illegally park there each week completely ignoring the new regulations which consequently, without any effective enforcement, are a complete waste of time and waste of the £3000 spent on making the changes.
1	There is a known issue with the parking around St Matthews and Highfield school. This plan does not solve any problems it just creates more. It prevents parking anywhere near any of the schools and does not create drop off and pick up points. This will mean parents will be parking on busier areas of the road or on the main roads further away causing more of a problem. A better solution than stopping all the car parking is needed or even adding restrictions to one side of the road only so parents can still park. This will affect the parents of hundreds of students.
1	Although something seriously needs to be done about the parking of vehicles on Highfield lane I feel that unless someone patrols it people will ignore it. If people don't park their vehicles they will stop on the road to "drop off" instead. This road is unpassable at peak times and i am astounded no one has been seriously hurt
1	This is a very hard one as I agree that it is a massive problem and safety risk but if parents can't park next to the school where are they supposed to park to get there kids to school? A lot of families have to drive to school and there is no available parking close to the school. If you put double yellow lines there then the high field school parents will probably try to park in the Prudhoe west car park which also already has issues with the amount of traffic already using the road into that car park. Maybe think of turning the bottom of the field across from high field school into a proper car park so parents have a safe place to park to get there kids to school. If no parking is made available how do you expect parents to get the kids to school. They will Start stopping there cars on main road to let the kids jump out which then causes issues for other people driving and also more issues of more kids trying to get across the road at a very busy time.
1	Congestion so bad at school times can hardly get off or onto estate. So many young children passing it's an accident waiting to happen
1	Whilst there is definite need to control parking in a more sensible manor in this area, where do you propose parents with children to drop off at school will park - opportunity existed recently on the opposite side of the road to develop parking but instead a high curb was placed thus restricting an area where parking without blocking the road was possible - the only area left now does unfortunately block one side of the road - double yellows is fine but you must provide a safe alternative - can see that congestion further towards church and highfield lane will follow this change making this area impassable and dangerous as a result.
1	I went to Highfield Middle School back in the early 90's and cars have parked up Highfield Lane ever since then and i'm sure long before. For the sake of half an hour in the morning and the afternoon you are causing a whole lot of stress and agrovation for parents and carers dropping off and collection their children safely from school. Where are people supposed to park their cars, no other options have been proposed? Applying double yellow lines will make parents park where they perhaps shouldn't. I have not seen any explanation reasonable or otherwise for why there is the need to place these parking restrictions.
1	I think 8:30am is too late to start the period. Many children will be walking to school around this time, and an early start to the restrictions would make their journey safer.
1	Do you think extending the size of the carpark at Highfield park, would help, as with the proposal it would force people to park further away and increasing the size of the car park would assist
1	Although i cannot view the map as the link says it has been removed, i am against tge proposals to make any changes.
1	I believe that certain factors have impounded the traffic flow on highfield lane over recent months. Firstly, a new and high kerb line had been installed opposite st matthews school. Historically, as many as 10 cars would stop here whilst dropping off or picking up. Now, due to the high kerb, vehicles are unable to stop here. So the cars now park elsewhere. Secondly, there has been utilities work going on along highfield lane over the past months. As the utilities firm chose to carry out the work at the same time as school times, there have been problems. Works vans and waggons have been parked on a daily basis causing utter chaos.
1	Thirdly, there have been a number of new families moving to the area. I have noticed that a couple of them are parking in awkward positions causing traffic flow problems. This could be addressed very simple by speaking directly to them. I believe that when dropping children off, especially very young children and taking into account we are approaching dark nights and bad weather, that parents want to be as close as possible to the school. I therefore propose that an area is provided for dropping of and picking up. There is no reason why this could not be done on the basis of safety.
1	I feel that signs and road markings will be blatantly ignored unless they are enforced on a daily basis.
1	I do not think this will be a good idea, where will parents park to get to the school. There are other schools near by that are also busy, it's very concerning that we will be parking so far away from the school and I feel it's another added pressure to the Morning school run for working parents with children.

	I am neither for nor against the proposal however what I would like taken into consideration as a place for people to park for the nursery. My little boy has started the nursery and I'm currently having to take my 5/5 week old baby to school in rain, wind the proposed area would make it an unfair distance to bring babies to school even with a buggy. I currently see toddlers walk into school as it is a safe place to do so. Better parking needs to be addressed for the first school and nursery.
1	It's good to see that this issue is getting looked at before there is a serious accident involving a child, however it is clear from the proposal that the needs of both local residents or parents of children attending either school have not really been considered. There has also been a reluctance by those responsible for traffic management to address the immediate issue & police the area affected properly, there are already yellow School Keep Clears in place that are regularly abused by parents & coaches - a two week campaign of issuing tickets would help to drive that message home, this has been requested yet ignored. Whilst Double Yellow lines would be useful all it will do is move the problem elsewhere as you are not allowing provision for the safe drop off of younger children, especially with the single yellow restrictions you propose: how does a child of nursery age get from the parents vehicle to the nursery door?
	From your brief summary & the outline proposal it is apparent that there is a lack of real understanding about the issue. The grass area opposite the joint entrance would make an ideal one way drop off zone, electronically signed timed one way traffic is another. It is also noticeable that at the problem junction of Highfield Road & South Road has been omitted from this proposal, the issue is not just confined to school hours as the residents here regularly park too closely to the junction causing issues with both the entry & exit of Highfield Lane, this is further exacerbated when the High School eject pupils for the day.
	All of these issues can be easily resolved with some common sense without just moving the problem elsewhere (implement this plan & see what happens to South Road) in a town that suffers from parking issues virtually everywhere (Redwell Road is another issue).
1	Please feel free to contact me to discuss the matter & a few simple but sensible ideas/suggestions further.
	I would like to know where you expect people to park. It will not stop the problem. It may move the problem to another road but it won't stop it. It may raise funds through parking tickets but it will not stop the problem. Children need to be dropped at school. In an ideal world many would walk but in the real world the cars need to stop somewhere
	This is a ludicrous proposal.
	1. Stopping parking on all of highfield lane will not solve the problem, only move it somewhere else. South road, this would cause chaos for traffic and more danger to young children walking to 4 separate schools. 2. the speed of traffic on highfield lane will increase during drop off and pick up of schools putting the children at greater risk. 3. more parents will enter the school car parks to drop off/pick up. Putting students at greater risk within school premises.
1	I agree that parking needs to be addressed but stopping parking entirely is only going to cause more problems and pose a greater risk to young children.
1	If this goes ahead will the council be providing a safe place for children to the dropped off and collected from school. Also provide parking for the church as many of the church goers are of an elderly age, and will struggle walk any distance.
1	I agree that the parking needs addressing however car parking for the school drop off also needs to be addressed. If there is no parking allowed on the road where are parents supposed to park cars to drop and pick there kids up from school ?
	I feel this is no waiting and double yellow lines is unfair. Myself and a few other parents work for a living and so for the school run it is a quick dash in and out. I feel like these new proposals would be totally unfair to us and you are making it virtually impossible to drop your kids off at school quickly.
	I suggest maybe a one way system with a drop off point coming up highfield lane and down past highfield park to exit. The grassed area opposite st Matthews would benefit from being Tarmac and used as a drop off point or made in to a car park.
1	If you are going to take away where parents can park... you need to make a replacement place to park. Maybe a car park on the nearby field. The car park around near the west just wouldn't be big enough for 3 schools worth of traffic.
	Can you please confirm where the additional parking for the schools will be if this lane is double yellow lines and also whether a drop off route be established if the double yellow is implemented?
1	Should be no waiting until 4.00pm as Highfield finish school at 3.35 pm
1	I'm all for putting double yellow lines down to stop inconsiderate people from parking but I do think that alternative parking should be introduced also as that road caters for two schools.

	If there is nowhere to park on highfield lane and you cannot park in the school grounds, where are parents expected to park when bringing their children to school?? I could not simply let my little one out of the car to run down himself he is 5 years old and there is nowhere else nearby to park.
1	I welcome the proposed introduction of parking restrictions on Highfield Lane. I would like to point out a situation which is a danger caused by regular parking of cars in one small spot. Its the area (just room for one car) between the private shared driveway to Craythorne and two other houses and the entrance to the church car park. A car parked into this space makes it extremely difficult to see past it when trying to exit the drive it blocks the view needed to see traffic which maybe coming up Highfield Lane. If a double yellow line were placed on this area it would make it a much safer exit from the drive your proposals are definitely needed to solve the problem of safety during school hours but do not solve the problem of the exit from the drive in question at other times particularly on a Sunday when cars are parked up and down Highfield Lane during Church Service and whenever other services take place.
1	As the school crossing patrol officer for this lane I have concerns over the time restrictions which have been proposed as they only cover the end of the day for St Matthew's' school and not for Highfield Middle school which finished at 15.35-15.40. There are a large number of children exiting the school at this time and they often over-spill the pavement so to suggest that cars should then be able to park down the top end of the lane at this time is of great concern. It is worth noting that I have been advised and on a daily basis I have police traffic cones in use above the crossing so as to prevent parking between the barriers from St Matthew's' school down to the crossing as when cars park there, it creates a blind spot for myself to see up the road to the corner and therefore for cars coming down (often at speed) to see me and the children who are waiting. I would suggest that the time restrictions are not lifted until 15.45. I support the proposals but have suggested amendments to the time of parking restrictions.
1	Were the nearest house to school and would make this suggestion. Due to the serious issue with traffic congestion during school pick up and drop off especially if it is raining. Needs addressing. No doubt the proposed restrictions will improve the situation alternative for parking . The land south of Highfield Lane has been identified as a proposed allocation in the emerging Northumberland Core Strategy which will indicate a strip of land on which a plan was recently submitted by Barratt the proposal included a safe pick up and drop off area for users of the school enabling a safe parking solution along Highfield Lane to everyone's Benefit.
1	I think you will move the problem rather than solve it. The amount of traffic will remain the same and will park just outside the double yellow lines ie. They will park in Highfield Estate outside people's driveways also shovelled by craythorn and south view. They will park in Swalwell Close outside people's houses. What you should be looking to provide is either a drop off point or a car park opposite Highfield School in the huge field. My concern is that they will park on South Road outside St Matthews at the same time as large amount of traffic are using South Road to access Prudhoe High school and Fern Dene. How do you think parents will get their kids to school especially on a cold wet windy morning, they will use the car park opposite the school. I already get people parking their cars on my driveway. Please don't make it worse by forcing people to do it.
1	The speed limit needs to be reduced in the area to 20 as with a clear road cars will go faster and cause greater risk to the children crossing the road
1	If this is going to happen where on earth are parents supposed to park to drop their children off at school? I have a daughter in st Matthews and I am a WORKING mother, in the morning I like most other working parents have to quickly drop the kids off and rush off to work to be there for 9am. Gates don't open till 8.30 and bell goes 8.40 so there is a ten minute window I don't understand where anyone is supposed to park it is absolutely ridiculous!!!
1	My children are Catholic and attend the only Catholic primary school in the Stocksfield / prudhoe area. We live in Stocksfield and have no other choice but to drive to school in Prudhoe, placing parking restrictions in this area makes it very difficult for me to get the children to school as there is no where close to drop my children as you intend to place parking restrictions at some distance from the school. this means that we will then be parking in the housing estates causing more chaos.

		<p>My wife and I have read the proposal for traffic control measures on Highfield Lane in Prudhoe and we both agree that the proposed measures will only serve to address a small problem but, in doing so, will create a much worse one.</p> <p>It is true that there are problems on Highfield Lane when dropping off and collecting children during the busy opening and closing times. Both myself and my wife agree that there are times when things get a bit tight and we sometimes need to reverse a little, but it's not too much trouble and the matter is resolved within a very short period with little effort.</p> <p>After examining the proposal, it seems that there will be nowhere near the school to park during the drop-off and collection periods. This would force parents to park in the car parks on Fair View and Highfield Park, however these car parks are already full during these periods so they wouldn't really be an option.</p> <p>Parents could walk their children to school, however the extra time that this takes would mean that many parents that live a fair distance from the schools, my wife and I being examples, would end up being late for work. Children could walk to school themselves, however parents of younger children (again, this includes myself) would not be willing to let their children walk to school. Parents of older children may also be concerned with letting them walk to school considering the recent sexual assault of a girl on Highfield Lane.</p> <p>In my opinion, the worst problem around the school is people parking at the top of Highfield Lane on the bend before the entrance to Highfield Park. Drivers coming from the top can see what's coming up the bank and, likewise, those going up the bank can see what's coming down. This isn't a problem when the bend is clear of parked cars. It seems like a better idea to please double yellow lines on this bend to stop this from happening, but leave the rest of bank free for parking.</p> <p>As to the problems at the bottom, near the church, this isn't much of a problem as drivers use the junction on to Highfield as a passing point. The police cones near where the crossing lady stands seem to work fine and maybe should be converted to restriction lines, but not all the way down to the church.</p> <p>Ideally, the grass verges on the bank up to Highfield Park would be converted into drop-off bays and allow for parking and two-way travel, however I imagine this would be too expensive. But I thought I'd suggest it anyway.</p>
1		<p>I understand that the double yellow lines will ease the traffic congestion and keep the traffic moving, but where are parents supposed to park in order to get their children to school?? There are a limited number of parking spaces outside the church and more up at Highfield Park, but certainly not enough for a primary school with over 120 pupils and a middle school???</p>
1		<p>Our children currently cross Highfield Lane safely, thanks to the LollyPop lady, so this is not something that will benefit the children.</p>
1		<p>This will only divert even more traffic onto already congested Highfield Estate and further along the Lane towards junction at South Road.</p>
1		<p>Please use this money for a long term solution not just seen to be doing something.</p>
1		<p>I agree with what you are proposing however, the parking issue will overspill into "The Private" Highfield Lane Estate therefore, request that you extend the Double Yellow Lining into the entrance of Highfield Lane Estate. Otherwise the residents will have even bigger problems accessing the estate than they currently do.</p>
1		<p>Fully support proposal, however am concerned that it is still not enough, car are going to use highfield ans st matthews lane as a 'car park' even more than now, grass verges will become parking area, especially when there are events on at the schools or church. Bollards needed on these areas.</p>
		<p>I am responding on behalf of the Council in respect of the consultation initiated by NCC in respect of the proposed parking restrictions on Highfield Lane in the vicinity of Highfield Middle School and St Matthew's RC Primary School.</p> <p>The consultation was received at a recent meeting of the Council, and it was agreed to respond to the following effect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It was noted that the waiting times proposed in the consultation were not long enough, as they extended only to 3.30pm, when in fact Highfield Middle School's day only ended at 3.35pm. It was therefore suggested that the restriction should be extended to 3.45pm.</li> <li>2. It was also agreed that the proposed solution would only be likely to be effective if there was a strong, regular presence to enforce the proposed restrictions. It was therefore agreed to request a response from NCC, outlining the practical measures that would be taken to ensure compliance with the proposed restrictions.</li> </ol> <p>Please do come back to the Council if any aspect of this response is unclear.</p>
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1	21	24
1	21	24



# **NORTHUMBERLAND**

**Northumberland County Council**

## **Appendix C**

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### **The Occupier**

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Tuesday 3rd January 2017

Dear Sir/ Madam

### **Proposed Parking Restrictions – Highfield Lane, Prudhoe**

Following on from the consultation to introduce parking restrictions to Highfield Lane in Prudhoe, the responses we received showed that the majority of consultees who responded agreed that there was a problem that needed to be resolved, but didn't think that the proposed plan was the best solution. After taking on board the comments received, we have revised the proposed parking restrictions plan to try and address issues raised, whilst still improving road safety.

Therefore, I would like to canvas your opinion on the revised proposed parking restrictions, as shown in the attached plan. It is anticipated that the revised parking restrictions will allow parking around the school, which will alleviate pressure on surrounding residential estates, as well as reducing traffic speeds. It is also anticipated that the introduction of passing places will improve traffic flow and road safety. The No Loading Monday – Friday 8:15 – 9:30 & 14:45 – 16:00 will also restrict vehicles from stopping on the single yellow line during the school drop off and pick up periods preventing dangerous and inconsiderate parking.

If you wish to comment on the proposals, please do so before Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017. You can either:

- Send your comments in using the attached Free Post Response form.
- Send an email to [HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk)
- Go online at <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>, to view all the relevant documentation.
- Write in to Highways Programmes, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, 2EF

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a report, to the Director of Local Services and Housing and may be available for public inspection.



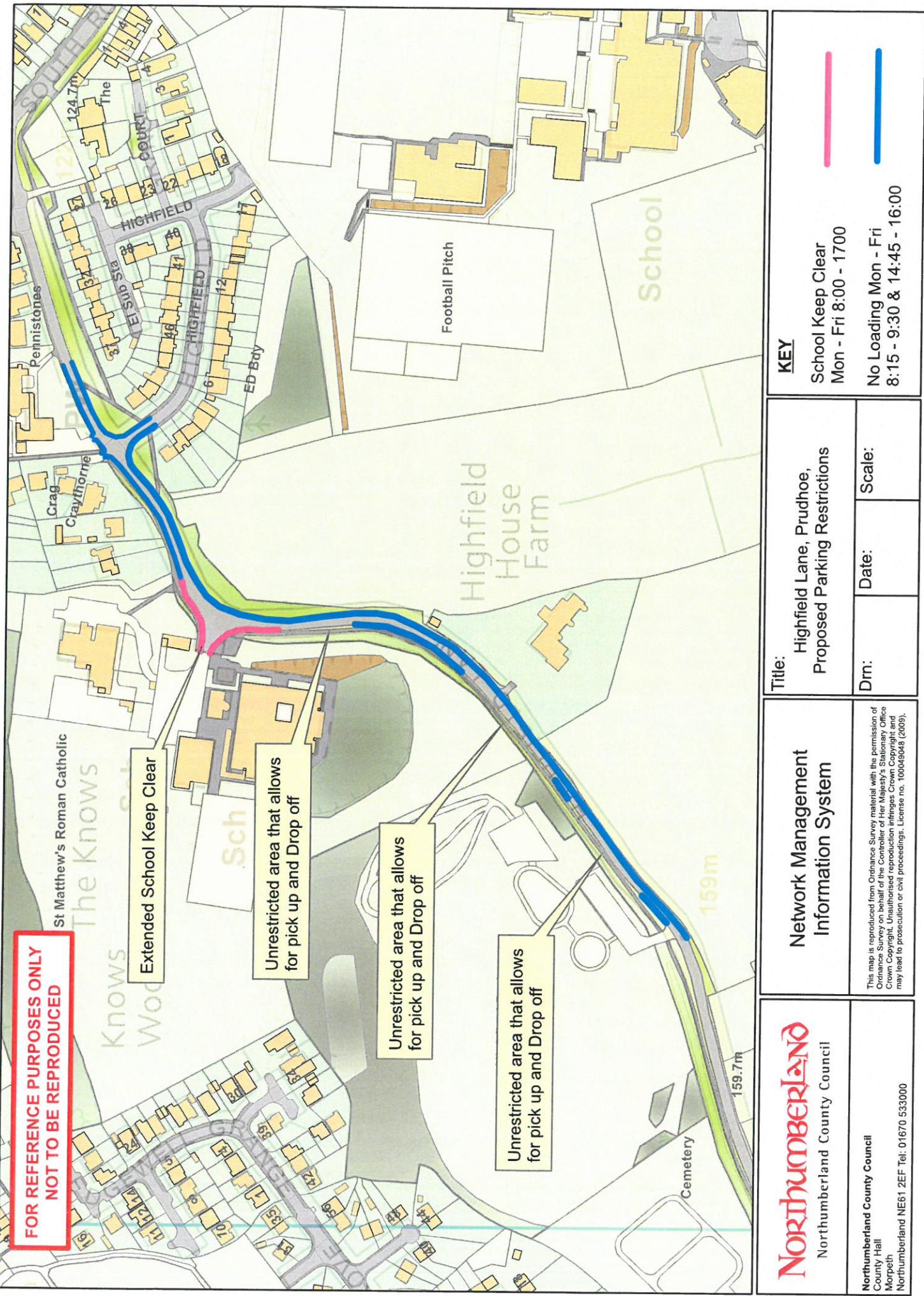
**I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents/businesses who take time to return the canvassing form. If no comments are received by the closing date it will be assumed that you do not wish to make any representations.**

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Dan Fraser  
Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)





**Appendix D . Summary of Responses**

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
			<p>My comments are that I live in Highfield, your proposal will help the only draw back is that most people will want to drop off in the unrestricted area beside the school. My opinion is that once they pass my gate it is not possible to see if there is a place to stop in the unrestricted drop off area where do they go then. As one of the closest houses I support your proposals but don't get annoyed at the traffic it only last for 10-15 minutes and we understand your position.</p>
1			<p>It doesn't seem much different! People need to be able to park along the road to take their children to school. St. Matthew's children are too young to be dropped, they need to be escorted. There is a road to cross. This is very short sighted. Parents will park in smaller residential streets and block drives. There is no harm with people parking along by the Church.</p> <p>There are at present 3 areas of road that cause problems on highfield lane. One is the top corner. Which, in your proposal, you are planning to address with a restricted parking zone, the second is the corner opposite the railings outside of the school gates, and the 3rd is the short stretch down from the railings, where the lollipop lady is, to the entrance of the highfield estate.</p> <p>If these 3 areas are addressed the problems to road users will be decreased significantly, but will also allow parking which helps with reducing the speed of traffic while schools are opening and closing.</p>
		1	<p>Your current revised proposal will increase the speed of traffic directly outside of the school. I am sure you will agree this is not an acceptable solution with regards to the safety of the children.</p> <p>As both a parent of children who attend the school and also a driver who always parks safely and courteously on this road, with a child who is disabled but does not warrant a blue badge, that allows me to take him into school grounds in a car, but who can not safely walk to school, so i need to make sure his walk is not too far or dangerous. I am keen for the issue to be resolved in a way that maintains both steady flow of traffic but primarily the safety of children.</p> <p>In your proposal you state you will extend the 'keep clear' area, currently there are 7 or 8 cars who consistently park on the current keep clear, these cars will continue to park on the keep clear zone whether it is extended or not. So unless you police this everyday it will make no difference to the current problem.</p> <p>A solution that many parents have suggested for this area is to create a 'drop off zone' outside the railings, this would then allow parents who do not need to get out of their car to pull up, safely allow children to get out of the car and enter school, and the parents immediately leave.</p> <p>Restricting all parking on the opposite side to the railings (as you head up towards highfield park) would be needed.</p> <p>You also suggest in your proposal to restrict all parking from the railings right down past the church. This restriction I believe would be ample enough from the railings to the entrance of highfield estate and the entrance of the church grounds car park. That would allow a clear stretch of road for road users to pass safely, but would not allow them to risk speeding while schools are opening and closing.</p> <p>With these few short stretches the problematic parking would reduce alot, and would create a safer zone for the children and drivers.</p> <p>You would also need to police the area, as the same people who currently cause problems with lazy parking and speeding will continue to do so, whatever restrictions are in place.</p>

I am writing regarding the traffic on highfield lane Prudhoe, I have lived on highfield lane estate since 1963 and have growing concerns over the parking restrictions you are proposing. Whatever parking restrictions you put on the lane WILL impact on the estate. We already have a constant stream of school traffic coming all the way along, turning at speed in the culdesac where children play, sometimes parking and blocking residents driveways.

They stopped the parking at the entrance of the school because it is dangerous for children crossing, however they are parking at the entrance of the estate where children are also crossing but there are no keep clear signs.

We also have the problem on a Saturday night and Sunday morning from church including funerals, weddings etc, this is just as big a problem.

PLEASE when you make you final decision please consider ALL of highfield lane estate residents as I feel what you are proposing will not stop people bringing their cars you are only moving the problem onto what was a quiet and safe residential estate.

This schemes does attempt to allow an element of sensible car parking on the roadside so is preferable to the first, however, there is still insufficient car parking for 2 schools. As suggested in another consultation this morning for Mickley, could NCC and their schools get together to look at opening the register up for a longer period so that the business at the start of the school day is not for a very short space of time. Perhaps 30 minutes would lessen the volume of traffic. Also it is worth noting that pupils at Highfield Middle School will simply be dropped off, where as pupils at St. Matthews RC Primary will be taken in, thus parents park up. Could some of Highfield Park field be used as a staff car-park and for visitors and the school car-park be a drop off zone?

The following is the response of the Town Council to the traffic consultation initiated by Northumberland County Council, with a deadline for responses of 15 February 2017

The Council agreed to respond expressing its support for the proposals as set out in the consultation and shown in the accompanying map, but with the following comments / suggestions:

1. The critical issue with respect to the success of the proposals was one of enforcement of the solutions that were implemented.
2. All existing road markings should be re-painted, including all the way down Highfield Lane to South Road.
3. Road markings should be painted across the entrance to the Highfield estate.

I supported the original proposal for this scheme I am not sure if the new plan will be any better than the first .

In the covering letter you mention passing places I cannot see them on the plan. As for traffic using the estate I would rather parents use the estate for dropping off and collecting children hence not causing problems on the road to the school. I understand that there have been 4 near misses on the road.

I live at 51 Highfield and witness the problem every day some of the driving and parking has to be seen to believe it. I mentioned in my first response that if the scheme goes ahead or not the road markings need to be ready painted and would also say new markings at the junction of Highfield and Highfield Lane as people park on the bends into the estate causing blind spots. The parking issues are not only school days but also Saturdays and Sundays with the Church and there parking is just as bad.

As a resident of Highfield i have Not received any letter relating to these changes, the proposals will not work. Cars are parked long before school day ends. Sometimes 3 cars parked across entrance to Highfield estate, preventing access for residents, i was told to 'find somewhere else to park' by one such driver whilst trying to access my residence!! Cars will use Highfield & grass verges to park up and wait, will northumberland co reinstate these damaged verges? Probably not, as we are not in the East of the county where all the money is being spent.

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# NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

## Appendix E

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF  
• Web: [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

The Occupier

Our Ref: HE163341-11

Your Ref:

Contact: Highways Programmes

Telephone: 0345 600 6400

Fax: 01670 626136

E-mail: [HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders at Highfield Lane in Prudhoe**

I am writing to inform you of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders that will be introduced on Highfield Lane and Highfield in Prudhoe.

Concerns were raised by St Matthews Catholic Primary School, Highfield Middle School, parents, local residents and School Crossing Control regarding congestion problems caused by inconsiderate parking on Highfield Lane. It has been reported that during school pick up and drop off times, the narrow roads, combined with inconsiderate parking on Highfield Lane are reducing the carriageway down to single lane traffic. This results in vehicles traveling from both directions meeting each other head on, forcing one or more vehicles to reverse back along the obstructed highway. Following two consultation, which both came back inconclusive although must agreed the area was dangerous and was in need of restrictions, Council Officers and Cllr Stow have been working together to agree plans that will improve road safety by reducing congestion.

Due to the demand for parking around the school and the possibility that additional parking restrictions may be needed, we are introducing an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order which allows flexibility to make minor changes swiftly. Details of the scheme are shown on the attached plan and will be implemented as an Experimental Order for 12 months starting on 7th April 2018.

### **Summary of Restrictions**

***No Waiting parking restrictions Monday - Friday 8:15am - 9:30am & 2:45pm - 4:00pm (single yellow lines yellow line) is introduced on Highfield Lane and Highfield, in Prudhoe.*** In order to prevent vehicles from parking inconsiderately and





to improve visibility during periods of increased traffic flow, a single yellow line will be introduced on both sides of Highfield Lane and Highfield in Prudhoe, as shown in the attached plan.

Associated documents and plans for this scheme can be viewed at the following link.  
<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Highways/Roads/Traffic.aspx#6madeordersamendments>

#### **Timescales**

Legal notices will be posted on site and advertised in the local press with all site works being scheduled for completion during the Easter half term break. These restrictions will remain in place for an 12 month period.

#### **What is an Experimental Order?**

Making an Experimental Order as a precursor to a permanent order can have material benefits, as well as being more cost effective and flexible in approach (e.g. allowing for immediate feedback and minor changes), than a permanent or temporary order.

#### **Feedback**

Unlike a Permanent Order where a formal consultation is undertaken, the experimental order is, as detailed above a more flexible approach. In this case we would welcome your views and feedback throughout the duration of this experiment in order to allow us to and make an informed decision at the end of this experimental period. If you wish to make comment on the experimental restrictions on Highfield Land and Highfield, please do so before 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 by emailing:

[HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk)

or writing to:

Northumberland County Council, Programme & Production Team, Technical Services, Sustainable Transport County Hall Morpeth NE61 2EF, (Highfield Lane Order 2018).

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments.

Yours faithfully

**Highways Programme (Highway Safety)**



