



Northumberland County Council

The Occupier

Our Ref: 2021/001

Your Ref:

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Date: Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Sir/ Madam

Proposed 'Go Smarter Safer Routes to School' Safety Improvements New Hartley First School

Representatives from the County Council receive regular correspondence in relation to road safety and indiscriminate parking concerns in and around New Hartley First School, particularly during school pick up and drop off times.

Due to the concerns raised, our 'Go Smarter Safer Routes to School Team' have been working closely with your local County Councillor Ferguson and New Hartley First School to consider potential improvement measures. A combination of 'Safer Routes to school' and 'Elected Member' funding contributions have enabled a series of measures to be proposed to improve safety and encourage walking and cycling, reducing the reliance on 'car use' during school pick up and drop off times.

The proposed measures are shown on the attached plan and broadly comprise;

- 'School Warning' traffic signs and associated road markings on Melton Drive and Bristol St.
- Traffic Regulation Orders in the form of 'Double yellow lines' outside the school turning area, as well as 'School Keep Clear' markings outside school accesses. The intention being to prevent parking where it is considered unsafe to do so and where it creates visibility issues for children when crossing.
- 'School Streets' Pedestrian and Cycle Zone on Chipchase Court (full extents) Bradbury Court and Bradbury Place.
- 'School Streets' Pedestrian and Cycle Zone part way along Melton Drive (from number 23 onwards) up to and including Hastings Gardens and Hastings Court. (Further detailed information on the Pedestrian and Cycle Zone proposals can be found overleaf)

Part of the wider works (not shown on the plan) also include improved pedestrian crossing facilities at locations where pedestrians regularly cross.

Paul McKenna, Highways Improvements

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School Streets Pedestrian and Cycle Zone Only - Detailed Information

The proposals are to introduce a **'School Streets' Pedestrian and Cycle Zone only during 8.30 – 9.30am and 2.45 – 3.30pm**. Signs will be erected part way along Chipchase Court and Hastings Gardens informing road users of the nature of the scheme.

What is a Pedestrian and Cycle Zone?

Pedestrian and cycle zones are generally areas where pedestrians and cyclists will normally predominate and have full use of the width of the road, either at all times or at certain times of day. All vehicles are generally prohibited to enter during the specified times to avoid conflicts with passing pedestrians and cyclists.

What is a 'School Street'?

A School street is an area outside schools are closed to traffic at school opening and closing times - with the aim of improving air quality and making it easier to walk and cycle to school.

As a resident, can I still enter and exit the scheme at all times/Am I exempt?

It is important to note that residents and visitors to residential properties will be exempt from the scheme. However, for the scheme to work effectively and to reduce conflict with passing pedestrians and cyclists, residents are asked to minimise trips during the times specified where possible. We, of course recognise that this cannot always be the case but if every effort could be made in this regard it will make the scheme more effective.

How will the scheme be enforced?

Any contravention of the scheme (anyone entering the zone during the times of operation that isn't a resident or visitor to residential premises) is considered a moving traffic offence which is enforced by the Police only. We will notify the Police of the scheme and ask that patrols are undertaken as a monitoring process. The school will also be working with parents to ensure they are aware of the nature of the scheme and their responsibilities.

How long will the signs be in place and how long will the scheme run for?

The signs and associated scheme is being proposed on an Experimental basis in the first instance.



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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 advise you on the proposed parking restrictions and road safety improvements on various streets around New Hartley first School as shown on 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 Director for Local Services and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is **Friday 14th October 2021**. 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.

Yours faithfully

Paul McKenna

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