

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

Corporate Director of Local Services - Barry Rowland

PROPOSED RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ZONE LANGWELL CRESCENT BACK LANE - ASHINGTON

Purpose of report:

To consider introducing A 'Resident Permit Parking Only Zone' on Langwell Crescent Back Lane in Ashington

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Corporate Director of Local Services agrees the proposals set out in the report relating to;

1) The provision of a 'Resident Permit Parking Only Zone' on Langwell Crescent Back Lane in Ashington.

Key issues

- 1) The existing 'No Waiting Monday to Saturday 8am – 6pm' restriction is preventing residents from gaining access to their premises within those times.
- 2) A number of Penalty Charge Notices have been issued to residents of Langwell Crescent for parking on the existing restrictions

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PROPOSED RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ZONE LANGWELL CRESCENT BACK LANE - ASHINGTON

BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 1) Langwell Crescent Back Lane runs parallel to Station Road. On the south side there are 26 residential properties backing onto the lane. Equally, on the North side there a number of businesses fronting Station Road where access can also be gained via the lane. A 'one way system' is in operation throughout its entirety due to a road width which varies between 5 and 6 metres. In advance of the exit onto Station Road there is the Trinity Church housing a small car park suitable for around 4 or 5 vehicles.
- 2) The 'No Waiting Monday – Saturday 8am – 6pm' restriction has been in place for a number of years but only recently has it been subject to active enforcement. Prior to the enforcement there was a tendency for residents, shoppers and business operators to ignore the restriction.
- 3) After receiving a number of complaints from residents and through liaison with the Local Council Member the requirement to amend the existing Traffic Regulation Order was identified

Consultation

- 4) Consultation took place throughout March 2013 with a proposal to replace the existing 'No Waiting' restriction with a Resident Permit Parking Zone as shown in Appendix 1.
- 5) 100 consultation letters were sent out to those affected and to associated statutory bodies. Of those that responded 21 were in favour, 2 were against and 2 neglected to state a preference either way (See Appendix 2).
- 6) Blue Badge Holders indicated their preference for the scheme as it will allow them to gain safe and quick access to their premises. It is worth noting that as part of the scheme Blue Badge Holders are entitled to one free permit. Families also welcomed the proposal citing difficulties exiting their vehicles whilst in their garage and carrying car seats into their house. The overriding benefit was being able to park vehicles close to their homes without the concern of receiving a Penalty Notice.
- 7) As businesses are ineligible to apply for Permits to park within the zone, potential concerns on their part were anticipated, yet none came to the fore. Some residents raised the question within their comments but due to the lack of response it is anticipated Loading requirements

are a more regular occurrence at the front of the premises on Station Road.

- 8) There were some who felt the current situation is preferable as enforcement has formalised the area, keeping accesses clear. If a Zone is implemented it will be down to the residents to work together, taking care to avoid blocking accesses where possible.
- 9) The Council has the power to hold a public inquiry before making a 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 – Consultation Plan & Proposal

Appendix 2 – Consultation Summary

BACKGROUND PAPERS

File Ref: M/F/2/107/2

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	None
Finance and value for money	To be financed by the Members local Improvements Scheme Fund
Human Resources:	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Residential Use
Sustainability	None.
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Considerations:	Motorists and residents will be required to comply with the restrictions imposed.
Consultation	Emergency Services, Road User Organisations, County Councillor for the area.
Wards	Ashington Central Ward

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member

Deidre Campbell – Policy Board Member,
Streetcare and Environment

Subject:

*PROPOSED RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING
ZONE – LANGWELL CRESCENT -
ASHINGTON*

Consultation

25 Responses
21 For
2 Against
2 Neither

Decision Taken:

*TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR A
RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ZONE ON
LANGWELL CRESCENT IN ASHINGTON*

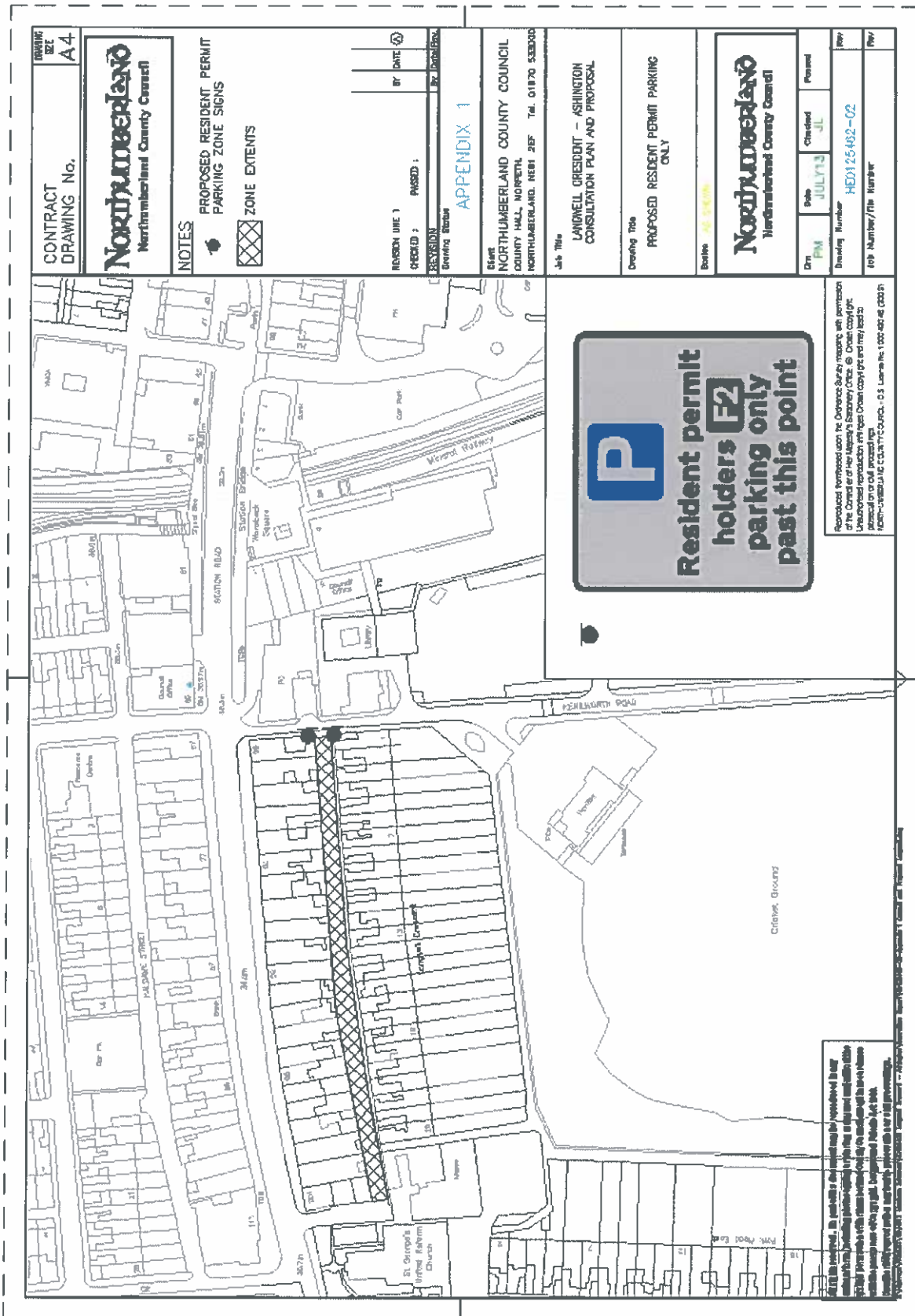
Signature of Corporate Director



Date

18/10/13.

Appendix 1 – Consultation Plan & Proposal



CONTRACT DRAWING No. **A4**



NOTES
 PROPOSED RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ZONE SIGNS
 ZONE EXTENTS

REVISION LINE 1	BY DATE
CHECKED :	PAUSED :
DESIGNED	BY DATE

APPENDIX 1

Client
 NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
 COUNTY HALL, NORTHUMBERLAND, NEBT 2EF TEL: 01870 530000

Job Title
 LANDWELL GRESIDENT – ASHINGTON CONSULTATION PLAN AND PROPOSAL

Drawing Title
 PROPOSED RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ONLY

Scale 1:1000



DTM	DATE	CREATED	PROJECT
PM	JULY 13	JL	
Drawing Number		HE01254632-02	
Job Number/Title		Resident Permit	



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Appendix 2 – Consultation Summary

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	APPENDIX 2 - CONSULTATION SUMMARY
		1	I do not have any problem with what is being proposed. There is a problem which needs addressing in my opinion. On the north side of the lane there are many local businesses. Will they be allowed a permit? If not we could encounter problems as shop owners are in the street on a frequent basis. Would it be possible to keep the SYL on the north side and have a permit scheme on the south side for residents?
1			It has long been known how awkward it is for residents in this area to be told no parking with zero tolerance. As I know a lady trying to load up two young children into car and had going back for second one in car and was told to move on.
1			Very good idea as I have already had one parking ticket for parking outside my property which I think was totally unfair.
1			Whole heartily, the sooner the better.
1			I don't see why we should pay for permits when we pay road tax you should be able to park at your own home. Sometimes we can't get out of your drive for strangers parking in the lane people park on both sides of the lane emergency vehicles would not be able to get up.
1			The no waiting Mon-Sat has caused me a lot of difficulties. I have received 2 parking tickets during this time and when myself or my husband have spoken to your parking attendants we have found them to be unco-operative even telling us that if our car has broken down that we would have to move it even if unsafe to do so. The only problem we have is people parking in teh back lane to use the post office which affects my house (as well as no. 1 & 2) As we are next to teh post office. I hope this matter can be resolved as soon as possible and I fully back the proposed resident permit parking zone.
	1		If permits are allowed we will have the same problem of people parking in front of garages and blocking access to our own property. We have enjoyed lately the novelty of not having to call around neighbours houses to see whose car is blocking our access in and out.
1			At long last common sense. But why! Oh why another £60 fees to be paid, we pay our rates and taxes, so for god sake make these permits free to residents, or print 1 and we can photo copy them ourselves.
1			Mr McKenna has ample knowledge of my views on the scheme via emails I have sent to him and I should like to record my thanks for his prompt and informative responses. Before the current enforcement of parking restrictions in Langwell Crescent it was besieged on a daily basis, but now with minor exceptions, the enforcement has completely solved our problem of the feral parkers who once infested the street, to this I say 'well done!' Although I am aware that some might not see the benefit of such a scheme, there should be no reason why that would affect those of us who do. My apologies for stating the obvious, but while it may be impossible to please everyone it is possible to bring relief to those of us who at present have to spent a great deal of time and much inconvenience to gain reasonable access to our properties without breaking the parking restrictions rules. For example, the situation where we return from the supermarket with a host of bagged groceries and while unloading into teh house a warden appears and not for the first time, must explain that we have just arrived! Or I am doing repairs in the yard and must park my car in Wilkinson's car park or else park at my door and become like a 'jack in the box' looking for the arrival of the warden! A visitor, relative or tradesman call and must be sent off to park where they can. These may appear trivial but are actual examples and I am sure others have similar stories to tell, it is an intolerable state of affairs not helped by our geographical location of the cricket ground to the south frontage of Langwell leaving only the rear street as our sole means of access. Parking permit schemes are perhaps quite novel in and around Ashington but are in operation all over teh nation so it would not be setting a precedent. It would also simplify teh work of teh wardens and free them to concentrate on other more congested areas. In relation to the placing of signs, the west end of the street is connected to Station Road by a short stretch of road which is two way. Despite a no entry sign it is common for cars to enter form teh main road, reverse and park ready to exit back the same way, it might be advisable to place a sign at that point. I urge the planning committee to introduce a fair and sensible system of residents permits in Langwell Crescent and peace should prevail.
1			I need 24 hour access to my garage due to myself and lodger working shifts. Would only I have the right to park outside my garage with a permit or could anyone with a permit park outside of it? If so, this could potentially cause me problems due to others with permits restricting my access.

			I have not spoken to Cllr Wilson, nor anyone from NCC re parking in my street; so I do not understand how you can claim, as you do, that the current situation is causing "difficulties". On the contrary!! I am satisfied with the existing restrictions, and am delighted that they are being strictly enforced. I can get my car out of the garage whenever I want to, without having to track down (when possible) car owners, and asking them to move their vehicles. When you were less conscientious in your enforcement of the parking restrictions, I often found access to my garage restricted by the very people you wish to issue with permits. Polite requests for access were not always received with good grace. I would suggest that almost every residents in this street, moved in when the 'waiting restrictions were already in force; but moved in, nevertheless; accepting these restrictions, and that the so called 'difficulties' have not resulted in a glut of house for sale signs. Visit our street any Mon-Sat during the daytime, and you will see that the residents are perfectly able to comply with the current rules. Residents in Langwell Crescent = 26 x 2 (parking permits) = 52 cars, not counting those belonging to people in Station Road. How this can possibly facilitate the passage of vehicular traffic on the road needs to be explained.
	1		
1			We think this is a good idea. This should have been done years ago.
			A long overdue proposal. We have lived here for over 13 years, we have already received one parking ticket, and at the re-introduction of traffic wardens, several months ago have narrowly missed getting several others. Fully support parking zone measures, but still amazed that we have to pay £15 for parking outside our own front door!!
1			
		1	I would inform you that as an emergency service we may be required to use the above road 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.
			We wholeheartedly support the proposal for residents parking permits. I try to use my garage every time I arrive home. However on many occasions I am prevented access by a van, emblazoned with 'Designs in Signs', parking directly opposite. The van belongs to a business on Station Road and they know they shouldn't park there but don't seem to care! I also have my 18m old granddaughter staying on a twice weekly basis and the 5 minutes allowed for getting her in and out of the car is rushed and is not always enough time. That's if they can even park outside my property depending on the 'Designs in Signs' van being there. We will of course be applying for 2 permits.
1			
			Although I support the proposals a restriction should be imposed on refuse collection days so the collectors can access the street without vehicles obstruction. Also if residents purchase two permits one should only be used for resident parking so there are not two cars per household in the street all the time.
1			
			I would welcome this proposal but I will recommend following proposals. Issued pass is only valid in front of their (landlords/owners) premises otherwise people come and park in front of neighbours (gate) entrance. Please let us know once this is approved and effective so that we will purchase the pass. If possible please keep the car registration number on passes to prevent any misuse.
1			
			I support parking permits on Langwell Crescent, because as a resident of Station Road I understand the urgent need for residents to park outside their own home without fear of a ticket, or moving my car over a mile away from where I live. I have two very young children and I have a parking space in close proximity, is a life line. Over the course of an average day, nursery run, shopping etc I am for limited spaces available, so as not to incur a fine. I fully support this scheme and I hope you will make the correct decision. I think the permit charges are fair and entrust the county council to support residential permit parking zone.
1			
			I think one permit per household is more than adequate. Any more will still lead to parking problems, where residents can't park near their property because of visitors especially at weekends. Visitors should still use car parks at the end of Langwell Crescent. There is only enough room for one car per household on the street.
1			
1			

1		<p>The parking problems currently experienced at Langwell Crescent is No waiting 8am-6pm is causing huge difficulties for my family and friends work. I would more than welcome permit parking 2 permits per household. My views are nobody visits only yesterday I got a parking ticket at my door. As a disabled driver was parked at my door obstructing my garage. I took children 2 in car seats shopping into house them removed the pushchair into the house. The dog and one child still in the car present while the traffic warden could hear me in the garage - house give me a ticket. I cannot unload my car of children, dog and pushchair shopping in time limit due to safety of my children also people park in front of my garage all the time to go to the post office at the end of the street and when I pull up to get into my garage I have to sit and wait or go and find them to allow me to get off the yellow lines and I myself have suffered abuse to ask somebody not to park in front of my garage. This a huge safety issue to me and family members.</p>
1		As am registered disabled and have a badge parking causes real problems for me and family.
21	2	2