

## RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

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### PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS – ST WILFRID’S SCHOOL, BACK CLAREMONT TERRACE, BLYTH

Corporate Director of Local Services, Barry Rowland  
Executive Member, Ian Swithenbank, Streetcare and Environment

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

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise regarding the introduction of parking restrictions in the form of School Keep Clear road markings and No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions at the above location, together with the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to enable enforcement.

#### **Recommendations:**

**It is recommended that in view of the consultation exercise, all parking restrictions should be introduced as proposed together with the necessary Traffic Regulation Order to enable enforcement.**

#### **Key issues**

The scheme was prepared and consultation has taken place. From 18 responses received, 13 were in favour of the proposals and 3 were against. Two consultees gave no definite yes or no answer.

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Report Author	Neil Snowdon – Transport Projects Officer (01670) 624128 Neil.Snowdon@northumberland.gov.uk
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## **PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS – ST WILFRID’S SCHOOL, BACK CLAREMONT TERRACE, BLYTH**

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Introduction**

- 1) Concerns have been raised by St Wilfrid’s RC Voluntary Aided Primary School, parents local residents and Councillor Deidre Campbell about road safety in the vicinity of St Wilfrid’s School at Back Claremont Terrace in Blyth. Of particular concern is the traffic congestion at school start and finish times, and related excessive vehicular speeds.
- 2) In response to these concerns a site meeting was held with Councillor Campbell to discuss a suitable solution. It was agreed that the introduction of parking restrictions in the form of School Keep Clear Road Markings and No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions would assist in improving the current situation. These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to approximately 75 households, and approximately 25 statutory consultees, such as 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 1).

### **CONSULTATION**

- 3) The consultation exercise ended on 20 December 2013, and responses were received from 18 consultees with 13 in favour and 3 (19%) against the proposed measures. Two consultees gave no definite yes or no answer to the proposals and are discounted when calculating the overall percentage of responses against the proposals. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix 2. The proposals have also been advertised on site, and no objections have been received.
- 4) North East Ambulance Service was the only statutory consultee who responded to the consultation, indicating that they were in favour of the proposals.

### **IN FAVOUR**

- 5) Whilst indicating their support of the proposals on the response form provided, residents also made the following comments:-
  - The restrictions will lead to further problems on Claremont Terrace, similar proposals should be considered here.
  - Unsure whether the proposals will improve problems with speeding traffic.
  - Residents Permit scheme would have been more preferable.
- 6) Given the comments regarding potential issues on Claremont Terrace, a request for parking restrictions will be added to our Requests Database for consideration in future works programmes.

## **OBJECTIONS**

- 7) Comments made by those objecting to the scheme included:-
- "I am disabled and require easy access to my back yard. I live at the bottom of Claremont Terrace and cannot understand why the restriction would apply at this end as I have not experienced cars parked at the back of my house during school drop off and collection times."
  - "What happens if I need work done on my house, I need a skip or works van standing all day at the back."
- 8) In response to these objections it should be noted that disabled blue badge holders are permitted to park on double yellow lines (No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions) for up to 3 hours before alternative arrangements need to be made. Skips are also permitted provided the correct permission has been sought. Finally works vans are permitted for loading and unloading before alternative arrangements should be made.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9) From the outset, the County Council has endeavoured to respond positively to local concern over road safety in this area and it is inevitable that some sections of the community will be dissatisfied with whichever decision is reached. Following the consultation exercise it is clear that the majority of residents who have responded are in favour of the proposals, and from a road safety point of view, the restrictions will significantly improve the safety of children and parents attending St Wilfrid's RC Primary School. It is therefore recommended that the parking restrictions are introduced as proposed, together with the necessary TRO to enable enforcement.
- 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.
- 11) Accordingly it is recommended that the Committee agree to advise the Corporate Director of Local Services to note the objections but agree to proceed with the introduction of the following Traffic Regulation Order;
- South East Northumberland Area (Waiting and Loading) Composite Order 2011 Amendment No. 11 Order 2013.

## **APPENDIX INDEX**

Appendix 1 – Consultation Letter and Plan

Appendix 2 – Summary of Consultation Responses

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Road Traffic Act 2004  
Local Government Act 2000  
File Ref: M/C/1/110

## IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

<b>Policy:</b>	Consistent with existing policies
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Scheme will cost approximately £3,000 and will be financed from the 2013/14 Minor Improvements Programme (LTP)
<b>Human Resources:</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b>	Correct lines and signs will help improved enforcement
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Residential area, route to school, speeding traffic and associated visibility issues.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	The proposals will assist in contributing towards a reduction in disorder and disruption and help promote a safer environment.
<b>Customer Considerations</b>	The proposals will lead to better managed road space and improved road safety.
<b>Sustainability</b>	None
<b>Consultation</b>	Blyth Town Council, the emergency services, nearby residents, and interested road user organisations were consulted on the proposals. The two County Councillors for the area have also been consulted.
<b>Wards</b>	Newsham and Isabella

## DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Executive Member and Corporate Director:**

Corporate Director of Local Services, Barry Rowland  
Executive Member, Ian Swithenbank, Streetcare and Environment

**Subject:**

Proposed Parking Restrictions – St Wilfrid's RC Primary School, Back Clermont Terrace, Blyth

**Consultation:**

Blyth Town Council, the emergency services, nearby residents, and interested road user organisations were consulted on the proposals. The two County Councillors for the area have also been consulted.

**Decision Taken:**

It is recommended that in view of the consultation exercise, all parking restrictions should be introduced as proposed together with the necessary Traffic Regulation Order to enable enforcement.

**Signature of Corporate Director**

*Barry Rowland*

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**Date**

*23/12/13*

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## APPENDIX 1 – CONSULTATION LETTER AND PLAN

The Occupier

Our Ref: M/C/1/110  
Your Ref:  
Contact: Mr Neil Snowdon  
Direct Line: 01670 624128  
Fax: 01670 626136  
E-mail: Neil.Snowdon@northumberland.gov.uk  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Proposed Parking Restrictions – St Wilfrid’s School, Back Claremont Terrace, Blyth**

Concerns have been raised by St Wilfrid’s School, parents, local residents and Councillor Campbell about road safety in the vicinity of St Wilfrid’s School at Back Claremont Terrace in Blyth.

Of particular concern is the traffic congestion at school start and finish times, and related excessive vehicular speeds. In view of this, the County Council is consulting on proposed parking restrictions which are outlined below, and can be viewed on the attached plan.

### **Proposed School Keep Clear Zig-Zag Markings**

Two sets of School Keep Clear markings are proposed, one for each of the two pedestrian accesses to the school. The restriction will be: No Stopping on the School Keep Clear Zig-Zag Markings between Monday and Friday, 8am and 5pm. These proposals are shown in red on the attached plan.

### **Proposed No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions**

No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions are proposed on the remaining areas of Back Claremont Terrace. These proposals are shown in blue on the attached plan.

It is anticipated that the introduction of both sets of restrictions will improve road safety adjacent the school, together with offering more visibility in a crucial area at key times of the day.

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 all 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 report, to the Planning and Environment Committee and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is shown on the response form. Please visit the following web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/> if you wish to respond to this consultation online.

**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.



APPENDIX 2 - SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Initial	Name	No	Thoroughfare	Post Code	FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
	Cllr Webb						1	I agree there are problems at the school which need to be resolved and its not easy for you to resolve them. But we have to remember the problems are caused by the parents and not the residents. So its important that we don't forget the residents who live there and may require to park their car at their back door.
	Senior CEO S/E Northumberland				1			I support this proposal 100%. I am frequently stopped and spoken to by residents and concerned parents about the safety issues surrounding this school.
			Claremont Terrace	NE24 2LE		1		What happens if I need work done on my house, I need a skip or worker van standing all day at the back?
			Claremont Terrace	NE24 2LE	1			I have lived at 65-67 Claremont Terrace for 23 years. I hope the no waiting at any time restrictions are proposed. I've had problems parking in all of this time. I have put electronic gates on my property so I can get parked in my own backyard. I worked so sometimes I cant even get out because of parked cars. I also have problems at the front with people parking and going to the sports centre. It is absolutely crazy at school times trying to get in or out of my property - I only hope this proposal will worked and that the car drivers will adhere to the markings, which I very much doubt. It needs to be monitored to make sure it is properly being implement.
			Claremont Terrace	NE24 2LE	1			Yes I like the idea no parking in my part of Claremont Terrace, but what can you do with people speeding down the back lane. So please put your line down soon.
			Roseberry Avenue	NE24 2LJ	1			I would like to state that I fully support your proposals and look forward to them being put in place. I would further wish to ask: Why even after various contacts of complaint to your council, Roseberry Ave (which runs parallel with lane to Claremont Terrace). Still remains a, dreadfully poor condition with many pot holes and kerb stones being grossly dislodged and protruding well above the lawful parameters with regard to be hazardous and dangerous. Roseberry still remains the only street not be maintained - even though there has been a huge increase in use due to the relocation of staff and other depts. to the civic centre building in Wrenick Rd / Roseberry Ave.
			Claremont Terrace	NE24 2LE	1			The proposal is gladly received as I no longer park my car in my garage due to inconsiderate parents blocking it. Hopefully these restrictions will stop then blocking my garage.
			Claremont Terrace	NE24 2LE	1			I am disabled and require easy access to my back yard. I live at the bottom of Claremont Terrace and cannot understand why the restriction would apply at this end as I have not experienced cars parked at the back of my house during school drop off and collection times.
			Claremont Terrace	NE24 2LE	1			I often require access into my back yard and into my disabled mothers back yard at 9 Claremont Terrace.
			Claremont Terrace	NE24 2LE	1			Reduce the speed limit to a compulsory 20mph for the streets and lanes in the surrounding area (Claremont Terrace to Marion Street). This will also add extra safety for children etc. Not just at school time but continuous 24hr - 7 days a week. There has been incidences of motor vehicles travelling too fast up a street with parked cars either side of the road. Risk of children stepping out between two parked cars.
			Claremont Terrace	NE24 2LE	1			The parking in Claremont Terrace is difficult now for residence, it will now get worse. We will need residence only parking in Claremont Terrace.
			Regent Court	NE24 2LT			1	Plan not adequate will increase problems. As a resident of Regent Court I can support a review of the school parents parking arrangements. However, I am concerned that Claremont Terrace is not mentioned in your proposed parking restrictions. Obviously, well, it is to me, if you restrict use of the back Claremont Terrace there will be even more traffic on (front) Claremont Terrace, which my bedroom and kitchen windows look onto and on which my front door opens. Already, there is head to tail parking 8.50-9.10am and again at tea time. While people are apologetic and polite - I have never experienced other - they say that they would not like it themselves. About 5 years ago, I attended a meeting at St Wilfreds school, chaired by NCC official and parking was discussed in detail. We were told that part of the school field would be re-vamped, opening onto Newsham Road. Not ideal, but better than the present chaotic arrangements that never happened.
			St Wilfrids RC Primary	NE24 2LE	1			This will make the access to the school much safer and may encourage parents to park in car parks in the area. I hope it will also benefit local residents who have been very tolerant.



