

Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

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

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.

Report Author

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

BACKGROUND Introduction

- 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 indication 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

Policy: Consistent with existing policies

Finance and value for Scheme will cost approximately £3,000 and monev

will be financed from the 2013/14 Minor

Improvements Programme (LTP)

Human Resources: None

Property None

Equalities Correct lines and signs will help improved

enforcement

Risk Assessment Residential area, route to school, speeding

traffic and associated visibility issues.

Crime & Disorder The proposals will assist in contributing

towards a reduction in disorder and disruption

and help promote a safer environment.

Customer Considerations The proposals will lead to better managed road

space and improved road safety.

Sustainability None

Consultation Blyth Town Council, the emergency services,

nearby residents, and interested road user organisations were consulted proposals. The two County Councillors for the

area have also been consulted.

Wards 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	
Benny Ran	دسا
Date	
23/12/13	

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 29th 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.

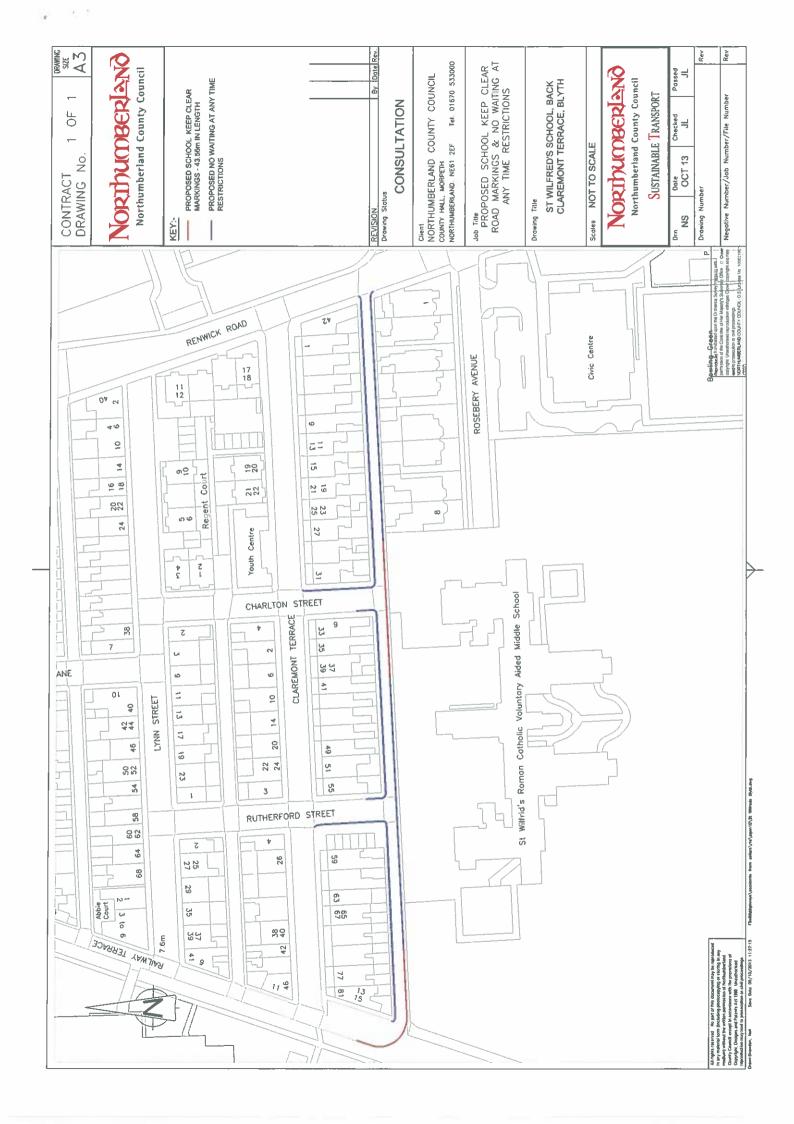
It is anticipated that the introduction of both sets of restrictions will will improve road safety adjacent the school, together with offering more visibility in a crucial area at key times of the day.

The County Council is seeking your views on the proposals and a freepost response form is attached the 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

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Nama	No	Thoroughton	Bact Code	OR	GAINST	EITHER	Other Relevant Comments
Name	140	Thoroughtale	Fost Code	li.	4	7.	One Relevant Comments
Clir 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	Ť	1	Г	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 doubl. It needs to be monitored to make sure it is property being implement.
				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.
		Rosebery 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 Marlon 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.
	寸	Claremont Terrace	NE24 2LE	1			
		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				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.
	T	St Wilfrids RC					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
		Clir Webb Senior CEO S/E	Claremont Terrace Claremont Terrace	Claremont Terrace NE24 2LE Claremont Terrace NE24 2LE	Claremont Terrace	Claremont Terrace	Claremont Terrace

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			Claremont Terrace	NE24 2LE	1			In principle I agree to the proposals, however I do have some concerns. The "No Waiting At Anytime" how will this affect residents of Claremont Terrace access to their backyards from the lane. Also I don't think the proposals go far enough. As a resident of Claremont Terrace when St Wilfred's was proposed as the Primary School site I asked the question about parking. I was informed that parents would be made to use the Sports Centre car park or the car park opposite the council offices on Renwick Road as these are both council offices on Renwick Road as these are both council offices on Renwick Road as these are both council offices on Renwick Road as these are both council offices on Renwick Road as these are both council offices on Renwick Road as these are both council offices on Renwick Road as these are both council owned car parks. This has not happened & residents have had to endure inconvenience & abuse from St Wilfred's parent. I have been physically assaulted by a parent when I politely asked her to refrain from parking outside my door as I'd had to carry 10 bags of grocery shopping from where I'd had to park my car 2 streets away & this was unfair. I was verbally abused by a parent using the most foul language in front of my then 11 year old daughter because she claimed I'd parked too close to her car. My 10 year old daughter was knocked off her bike by a St Wilfred's parent in Claremont Terrace back lane in July 2013. Not a single person helped her or checked she was ok, she had to hobble home unaided to seek help. A neighbour has a disabled space outside her home but if her car is not there then the St. Wilfred's parents feel free to use it with no thought as to how this would inconvenience a Irail elderly lady. Another neighbour returning from a 12hr nightshift wanted to park outside his home, a parent nipped into the space before he could & when he asked her to move so he could park & go to bed he was told that following a 12hr shift another 10 minutes wouldn't kill him while she took her child i
ŀ		+-	Claremont Terrace	NE24 2LE	1	\vdash	-	-
								Parents from St Wilfred's park dangerously in the street - over corners effectively creating new corners & even diagonally across corners - walking down the street with a buggy at school times you have to walk on the road as you can't get through the cars to cross the road at the junctions. They speed up & down the street with title regard for anyone's safety & in truth it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt or killed, in fact it's a miracle it hasn't happened yet. Residents should be able to park outside their homes & conduct their day to day business in a safe environment therefore we would also request that Claremont Terrace and surrounding streets be made resident parking only. Thank you for taking the time to read my response, I hope you will consider my concerns when applying restrictions.
F		F	Claremont Terrace	NE24 2LE	1		Г	
					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 do appreciate however the need for restrictions to improve road safety. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.
			Claremont Terrace	NE24 2LE	t			The proposals outlined are a positive approach to the current problem but could go a lot further. The proposed waiting restriction will, by defect, push the parents / carers further into Claremont Terrace, thereby creating more problems for local residents. I would further add that, because Lynn Street, at its junction with Renwick Road was 'concreted out' this has led to a marked increase in vehicular traffic in Claremont Terrace (which is also used by some as a short cut) to avoid the congestion at the west end of Waterloo Road at its junction with Renwick Road, along with the pelican crossing nearby. Also, a number of road users see Claremont Terrace as a convenient place to park when visiting / using the sports centre, in order to avoid having to traverse Princess Louise Road (from Broadway roundabouto thereby avoiding the speed bumps which have to be negotilated en route to the sports centre car park. With regard to the proposed zig zag markings, teh proposal of Mon-Fri 9am - 7pm I would add that there will be some occasions when the school may be open for parents evenings etc the restrictions for these occasions would have to be notified to the parents / carers, by the school, to re-iterate the restrictions. My final point - if/when the road markings are scheduled in for laying down.
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