

# NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

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

Corporate Director of Local Services - Barry Rowland

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### ***PROPOSED RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ZONE WANSBECK STREET - MORPETH***

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

*To consider replacing the existing 'Prohibition of Driving Except for Loading and Permit Holders' restriction with a 'Resident Permit Parking Zone' on Wansbeck Street in Morpeth*

#### **Recommendations:**

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

***1) Replacing the existing 'Prohibition of Driving Except for Loading and Permit Holders' restriction with a 'Resident Permit Parking Zone' on Wansbeck Street in Morpeth***

#### **Key issues**

- 1) The current 'Prohibition of Driving' restriction is a moving traffic offence and no effective enforcement is currently taking place.
- 2) Shoppers and workers ignore the signs and use this section for parking during the day.

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## **PROPOSED RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ZONE WANSBECK STREET - MORPETH**

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Introduction**

- 1) Wansbeck Street is located immediately south of the River Wansbeck in Morpeth. It provides access to residential properties, the Joiners Arms Public House and Jacksons Hairdressers. Wansbeck Court is situated on the east side of the street and benefits from private off street parking.
- 2) Looking at the existing restrictions, Double yellow lines extend 8 metres into Wansbeck Street on the east side and 4 metres on the west. The nearby Castle Square Car Park is surrounded by either 'No Waiting' restrictions or 'Limited Waiting and Resident Permit Holder' bays. The 'Permit Holder' bays are currently made available to residents of Wansbeck Street, Wansbeck Court, Hillgate and Castle Square.
- 3) The current 'Prohibition of Driving except for Loading and Permit Holders' restriction operating on Wansbeck Street is a moving traffic offence which is only enforceable by Northumbria Police. Limited resources means that the signs are ignored which therefore limits the effectiveness of the permits currently allocated. Following a request from Councillor Lindley, the Project Planning Team has been asked to find a suitable Traffic Regulation Order where effective enforcement can take place under the remit of Northumberland County Council's Civil Parking Enforcement Officers.

#### **Consultation**

- 4) Consultation was carried out in May 2013 with a proposal to replace the existing restriction with a 'Resident Permit Parking Zone' as shown in Appendix 1. 71 Consultation letters were sent out to those affected and to associated statutory bodies. Of those that responded, all were in favour with a total of 7 responding (See Appendix 2).
- 5) A summary of the comments shows that residents felt the signs would provide more clarity for drivers and act as an enhanced deterrence. There were some concerns as to whether the existing layout of the road could cater for the demand for parking, suggesting that a limit should be placed on the number of permits allocated to those with private parking. 17 properties are currently taking advantage of the scheme and it is made clear that the permit does not guarantee parking availability. Furthermore the allocation of permits is uniform throughout the scheme regardless of whether alternative off street parking is available. A maximum of 2 permits would be issued to those taking part in the scheme and their use would be monitored.

## Conclusion

- 6) In light of the positive outcome of the consultation it is recommended that the scheme proposal to introduce a 'Resident Permit Parking Zone' on Wansbeck Street should proceed.
- 7) 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 and Proposal*

*Appendix 2 – Consultation Summary*

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Northumberland Parking Strategy - July 2011

File Ref: M/A/1/107/2

## **IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT**

<b>Policy:</b>	None
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	To be financed from the Local Transport Plan
<b>Human Resources:</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b>	None
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Residential Use and business use. Traffic manoeuvres
<b>Sustainability</b>	None.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	None
<b>Customer Considerations:</b>	Motorists and residents will be required to comply with the restrictions imposed.
<b>Consultation</b>	Emergency Services, Road User Organisations, County Councillor for the area.
<b>Wards</b>	Morpeth CP

## DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Executive Member or Officer(s):\*** Deidre Campbell – Policy Board Member, Streetcare and Environment

**Subject:** *PROPOSED RESIDENT PERMIT HOLDER ONLY ZONE – WANSBECK STREET - MORPETH*

**Consultation** 8 Responses  
7 For  
0 Against  
1 Neither

**Decision Taken:** *TO APPROVE THE PROVISION OF A RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ZONE ON WANSBECK STREET IN MORPETH*

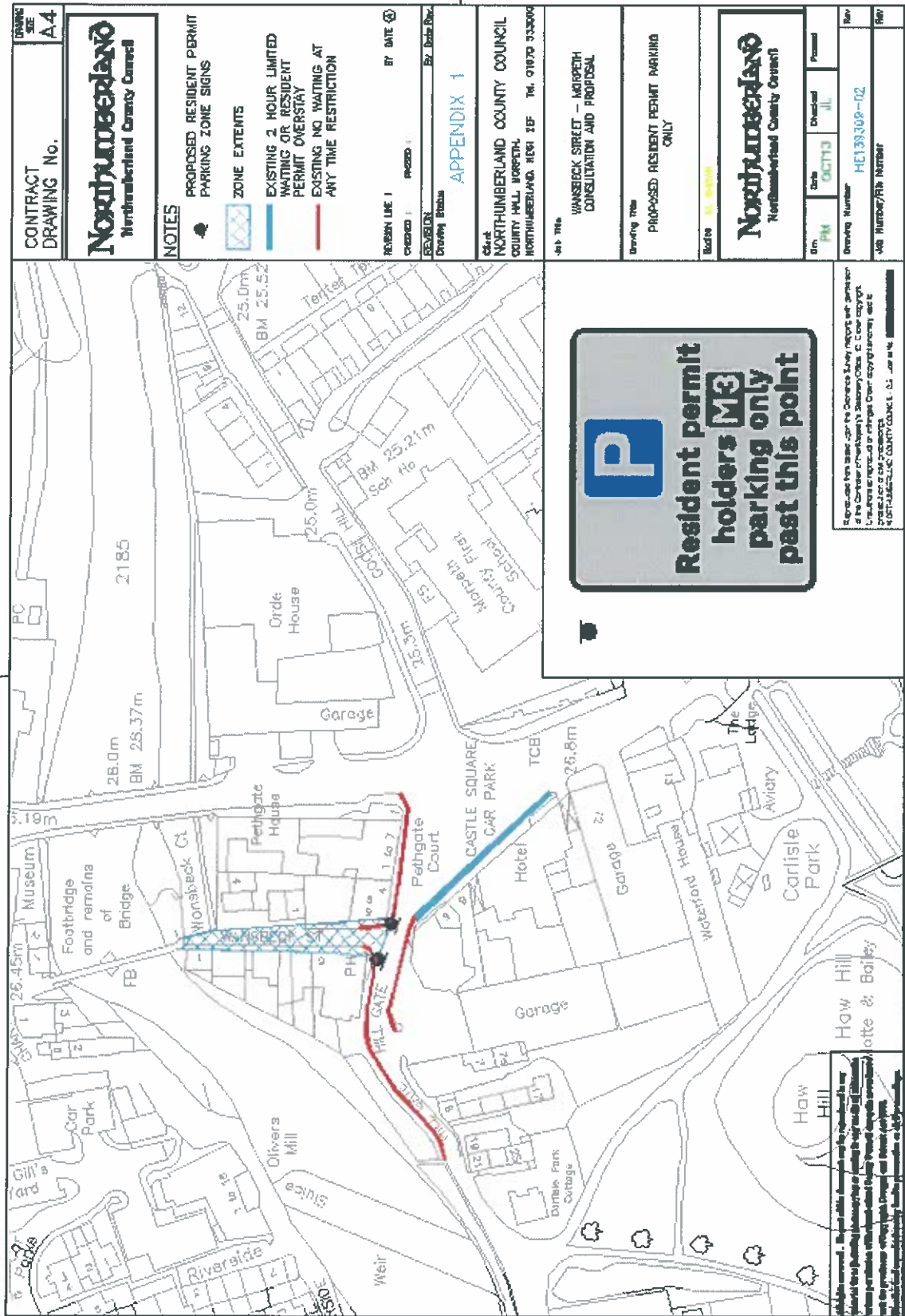
Signature of Corporate Director



Date

*18/10/13*

# Appendix 1 – Consultation Plan and Proposal



## Appendix 2 – Consultation Summary

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	APPENDIX 2 - CONSULTATION SUMMARY - WANSBECK STREET - MORPETH
1			The new 'resident permit parking zone' scheme makes it clear who is allowed (or not) to park in Wansbeck Street. Good move!!
1			I would like to ask on behalf of all residents who were previously members of the old parking scheme for a refund of permit fees paid for the last eleven years or so. If the scheme wasn't legally enforceable then any monies paid should be returned, as there has been an obvious breach of contract by NCC. If as NCC admit the wrong signage has been used, then many of the parking fines issued would be illegal, therefore should be re paid to the affected motorists. I would ask that residents of Wansbeck Crescent, be restricted as to how many permits they could purchase as they have 5 private parking spaces with their properties. I would ask the same for numbers 7, 8 & 9 Wansbeck Street, as they also have some private parking to the rear of their properties. (approx. 4-6 spaces). Even under the revised parking scheme (2 permits per household/business), you could potentially have to issue 26 permits. There are actually only 5 spaces in the whole of Wansbeck Street! I look forward to your reply/speaking to someone shortly to discuss the points that I've raised. Reference point 1, please refer to previous communications with Mike Scott; who confirmed that a refund or reduction should be made due to NCC's lack of enforcement. Perhaps a site visit by officers may be advisable so I could better explain some of the parking anomalies faced by residents.
		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 safety programme.
1			I am very pleased that at last something is happening regarding the situation in Wansbeck Street. I find it a strange situation, that overnight on 30/10/2012 the current legislation came into force without any consultation with the residents. Consequently some of the more conscientious of us have paid for permits which to all intents and purposes have been useless. I note that there is free car parking in Castle Street in the area in front of the Waterford Lodge and that our permits will be valid there.
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1			
1			I would advise that the town council fully supports the proposal but would stress that the permits must appertain to residents only, and not businesses, and that this criteria should be included on the permit application form. (it is noted that there are two businesses on this street).
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