



Northumberland County Council

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – LOCAL SERVICES**

**Proposed Resident Permit Parking and No Waiting at Any Time
Restrictions – Aged Miners Cottages - Cramlington**

Purpose of Report

To consider the introduction of a Resident Permit Parking outside numbers 1 – 10 and No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions on Aged Miners Cottages, Cramlington (see attached Consultation plan in Appendix A).

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

Given the outcome of the consultation, as well as the comments received, that the proposals to introduce a Resident Permit Parking outside numbers 1 – 10 and No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions on Aged Miners Cottages, Cramlington should proceed.

Key Issues

- 1) Concerns from residents and members of the public on parking and traffic safety issues were expressed to their local Councillor and therefore this proposal was consulted upon. Councillor Flux fully supports the proposal.

Report Author **Andrew Douglas - Transport Projects Officer**
(01670) 623861
andrew.douglas2@northumberland.gov.uk

Proposed Resident Permit Parking and No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions – Aged Miners Cottages - Cramlington

Background

1. Aged Miners Cottages and Old Crow Hall House are along a section of the U9552. This road leads from Crow Hall Road to Cramlington Station (on the East Coast Main Line). This is a particularly busy area for commuters and is adjacent to a Royal Mail delivery office

Introduction

2. Concerns have been expressed over a number of months via their local Councillor by both residents and commuters of Cramlington and specifically residents of the Aged Miners Cottages. Their concerns relate to indiscriminate parking of vehicles, causing obstruction both physically and visually. This creates a safety issue for road users and pedestrians, in a busy area of Cramlington i.e. parking on corners and verges, causing visibility issues when crossing the road or when driving around parked vehicles. This has resulted on occasion the police to be called out. Residents and their families are also unable to park near their properties; this can be particularly difficult for the more elderly residents.

Consultation

3. A scheme was prepared and was the subject of a consultation, which concluded 20th February 2014.
4. The consultation exercise involved the delivery of a consultation letter together with a plan showing details of the scheme to approximately 50 adjacent households, statutory consultees; County Councillor Flux; road user organisations; and other interested parties. A plan showing the scheme is attached together with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix A).
5. Responses were received from 16 consultees with 8 being in favour, 7 against and 1 neither for nor against.

6. Consultees comments varied, some concerns were expressed that they had concerns that the problem comes from Royal Mail workers not being allowed to park within their depot and thus are forced to park in the nearby residential area being Aged Miners Cottages.

Although, this was originally a concern, the Council recently contacted the Royal Mail for an update and received the following information from a Royal Mail Manager; the depot originally had 4 vehicles operating out of the depot, this has subsequently increased to 20. After negotiations with their staff and management, vehicles were allowed to be taken home at night. However, the increase in vehicles operating out of this depot resulted in visitors to the depot i.e. to collect parcels not being allowed to park. This resulted in visitors parking in the station car park or adjacent to Aged Miners Cottages, this coupled with employees from Manor Walks parking in the area i.e. there is a 4 hour restriction on parking in Manor Walk a privately owned car park. The Royal Mail Depot has not been able to offer an alternative solution.

Conclusion

7. 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. The assessment of the results in the consultation exercise can be a contentious matter, but experience has shown that when levels of opposition are much above 30% those opposed to the scheme can engender support from neighbours, which can create difficulties in implementing the scheme. The consultation exercise showed that overall 44% of all the consultees were against the proposals.

Although, the proposals will not alleviate everyone's concerns i.e. visitors to the sorting office and where there have been a number of changes to the parking requirements in the area i.e. visitors to the sorting office and the railway station. Adequate short term parking is available in Manor Walks Car Parks a short distance away. Promotional material made available by the Post Office for their visitors will be encouraged, in order to highlight alternative parking available.

8. It is recommended that, taking into consideration the results of the consultation, further interpretation of these responses and the road safety issues raised, the scheme should be implemented as proposed and without any amendments.

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.

Background Papers

File Ref: H0135583-01

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Consultation

Appendix 2 – Consultation Summary

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed from the 2014 Members Local Improvement Scheme.
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Increase road safety
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Considerations	Increase road safety
Sustainability	None
Consultation	The relevant people and organisations were consulted
Wards	Cramlington

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member or Officer(s):

Ian Swithenbank – Policy Board Member, Streetcare and Environment
Barry Rowland - Executive Director – Local Services

Subject:

Proposed Resident Permit Parking and No Waiting at Any Time – Aged Miners Cottages – Cramlington

Consultation

16 Responses
8 For
7 Against
1 Neutral

Decision Taken:

TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING SCHEME AND NO WAITING AT ANY TIME - AGED MINERS COTTAGES - CRAMLINGTON

Signature of Executive Director – Local Services

PP PAUL JONES
HEAD OF NEIGHBOURHOODS SERVICES

Date

29/8/14

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF
• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: M/C/4/110/8/CONS/AM
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Paul McKenna
Direct Line: 01670 624129
Fax: 01670 534216
E-mail: Paul.McKenna@northumberland.gov.uk
Thursday 9th January 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Resident Permit Parking – Aged Miners Homes – Cramlington

Due to the on-going parking difficulties that are being experienced outside Aged Miners Homes in Cramlington, representatives from the County Council have worked together with Councillor Flux to consider an appropriate solution.

The intention is to introduce Resident Permit Parking available to numbers 1-10 Aged Miners Homes and Old Crow Hall House only at the location shown on the attached plan (HO13XXXX-U552-01). To make this scheme enforceable, residents will be asked to purchase Resident Parking Permits. (Currently £15 a year per permit). A maximum of 2 permits can be provided per household with 1 permit reserved for residents and one for visitor parking.

I am therefore writing formally in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (as amended) to ask for your comments on the proposals as above and shown on the enclosed plan. The proposal is being considered for preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic in a manner which is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road.

The County Council is seeking your views and a free post response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. I would welcome a reply by Thursday 20th February 2014. If no comments are received by that date it will be assumed that you do not wish to make any representations regarding the above proposal. You may wish to note that any comments received may be included in a Decision Report to the Corporate Director and may be available for public inspection.

Please visit the following web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/> if you wish to respond to this consultation online. If you have any queries regarding this consultation please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Paul McKenna - Transport Projects Team

Appendix 2 - Consultation Summary

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
1			The proposal is exactly what is needed. The parking is horrendous, the sooner the work is carried out the better. Please let me know by post or email as soon as you require the payment. I have sent an email on 20.12.13 to your complaints dept. which explains all the problems I have had with the parking.
1			Over a period of time we have spoken to and emailed Cllr B Flux. We are happy for any of this information to be used as you see fit.
1			I support this proposals because it will be 100% safer for residents as well as the public plus easy access for emergency vehicles.
1			Since living here I've had my wing mirror knocked off, previous car scratched, ambulance couldn't get down the street due to double parking and when my family visit they cant stay due to other cars who obviously using the train.
	1		Residents at Aged Miners Homes all have drives at their homes. Our staff do not ever park in front of their drives. We are not allowed to park in the station car park. We are not allowed to park at Manor Walks car park. Staff will have no other option but to start parking in Nelson Village which will then raise complaints from residents there. Staff finish their shift at 14:40. We are currently trying to get volunteers to take company vehicles home to prevent them bringing their private cars to work. Customers coming to collect parcels from the office will not be able to park anywhere. This will cause major issues on the road.
1			I would inform you that as an Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) 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.
	1		I am sorry but I do not agree with this proposal as it will not solve the problem it will make things worse. You need to talk to Royal Mail as the problem has got worse since they stopped there workers from parking in there yard and what about all the people who come to pick up letters and parcels the car park belonging to British Rail is already full everyday with people who travel on the train which that is what the car park is for Rail Commuters. I do not own a car and I am not prepared to pay for my family and friends to visit me I have a large family and this proposal would not be practical for me or them.
	1		I and other residents of aged miners homes are elderly, I am age 81 and do not own a car. I am of limited mobility and depend on family and friends visiting, they are my lifeline. At the moment I do not have to pay anything for my family to visit me at my home. The area proposed for the residents parking has no pavement, we have one single pathway, serving 2 homes leading onto the road, when a car is parked there, we cannot get out from our property without walking on the slippery, sloped grass verge. The problem with the dangerous parking is caused by employees of the royal mail building parking outside our homes and taking up the spaces in the station car park. This issue should be taken up with Royal Mail and not have pensioners pay for the privilege their employees have had to park.
	1		
1			These proposals will certainly ease the congestion in the area. I support these proposals.
	1		The car parking facilities at the station and around the sorting office are inadequate at present. Reducing the available parking spaces for general public here will only push the problem to the streets north of the sorting office. Perhaps we could get the post Office to re-open their car park to the general public for parcel collection as was customary until a few years ago
1			My parents live in the cottages and if I need to visit them it is almost impossible to get parked. People visiting the sorting office seem to think that they are free to park where they like. It is also becoming more difficult to enter Nelson Village with the amount of cars either parked up to and passed the junction and also parking on the bend.

	1		<p>this problem is caused by the post office, they should sort out their parking issue. Those cottages were there long before the post office.</p>
	1		<p>I agree with this proposal but also think it should be followed up with yellow lines into Nelson Village as the inconsiderate parking all the way in to the village is a major hazard. Add to this the churning up of the verges, and parking on paths, which stops mothers with prams and older residents/ disabled with wheelchairs etc. It is only a matter of time before a serious incident occurs, as this is the only access to our village this is of particular concern to us.</p>
	1		<p>This would be fine, if the station car park was to be suitably planned to accommodate more cars, currently there is too much wasted space, with the potential to accommodate numerous more if planned better.</p>
	1		<p>Permit parking for residents of the aged miners cottages is the way forward if it enables them easy access to their homes. However I find it rather unfortunate that they have to pay an annual fee to park at their own door when the problem originates with a combination of problems. Firstly the Royal Mail collection centre has outgrown its use, with internet shopping growing the parking problem is going to increase and needs to be addressed immediately together with the railway station. If Royal Mail moved its premises to the industrial estate and the land it is currently built upon was used for parking together with the grassed area to the left, it would alleviate some of the problem for rail users. Maybe if these solutions could be implemented it may result in the residents not incurring charges and the lane would revert to a quieter area.</p>
	1		<p>I agree with the plans in principle, however as a daily user of the station, this should only be considered if the station car park is suitably re-planned to accommodate more vehicles. It is currently badly planned, with huge amounts of wasted space, some waste land and some overgrown bushes and trees that take up what could be additional parking. I would suggest that landscaping the area could easily result in a 20 additional spaces so that parking in the proposed area would be unnecessary. Until this happens, this valuable transport link will be unsuitably accommodated for.</p>
8	8	1	