



Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES: BARRY ROWLAND

PROPOSED CAR CLUB PARKING BAY BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the provision of a dedicated parking bay for Hexham Car Club, (see attached consultation plan in appendix A).

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

Given the positive outcome of the consultation as well as the comments received it is recommended that the proposals to provide a car club parking bay in Beaumont Street, Hexham, should proceed.

Key Issues

- 1) A Car Club was recently set up in Hexham by Transition Tynedale. The car club is run by a community interest company called Co-Wheels. The club currently has one vehicle based in Wentworth Car Park.
- 2) The Car Club has requested a dedicated bay for a second car, to be based in the Beaumont Street area to serve the west of the town.
- 3) Co-Wheels states that an on-street bay is essential in order to help publicise the availability of the vehicle and promote the car club to new members.

Report Author

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PROPOSED CAR CLUB PARKING BAY BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the *Places and Environment Aim* in the Corporate Plan:

Our aim is to maintain and further improve the quality of our towns, villages and countryside and make it easier for residents to access services and high quality, affordable homes and to travel using different modes of transport. To achieve this, we will keep Northumberland clean, green and safe from detrimental impacts of climate change, build more houses to benefit those most in need and provide a convenient, integrated public transport network.

Background

1. The proposed scheme is in response to a request from Hexham Car Club for an on-street parking bay at the west side of the town centre.
2. The car club has an existing vehicle based in Wentworth car park which serves the east of the town.
3. The County Council supported the car club by providing the parking bay at Wentworth and contributing to the capital cost of purchasing two vehicles via the LTP Programme.
4. The car club was initiated by Transition Tynedale, a local group that promotes local initiatives to build a more resilient and sustainable community. The Club is run by Co-Wheels, a community interest company that runs car clubs nationwide.
5. The car club provides vehicles that can be booked for use by club members. It is of particular benefit to those who do not own a car.
6. Co-Wheels have stated that a visible, on-street parking bay is essential to help promote the car club and attract new members.
7. Research by Transition Tynedale has indicated that there are many potential new members of the car club living in the west of Hexham. Beaumont Street is therefore well located to serve this potential demand.
8. The site at the south end of Beaumont Street was chosen following an inspection of potential sites in the town centre. Other locations considered were Battle Hill (no available spaces), Priestpottle (too far from the west end and too close to the existing car at Wentworth), and Cattle Market (discounted as there are currently disabled bays here).
9. The Market Place/north end of Beaumont Street was discounted due to the proximity of Hexham Abbey and the need to avoid additional signage in such a sensitive location.

Consultation

10. A scheme was prepared and was the subject of a consultation which concluded on 16th July 2014.
11. The consultation exercise involved the delivery of a consultation letter together with a plan showing details of the scheme to statutory consultees; County Councillor Robson, Hexham Town Council; road user organisations; and other interested parties, including premises on Beaumont Street and St Mary's Wynd. The proposal was also available to view and comment via the Council's website. A plan showing the scheme is attached as Appendix A.
12. One statutory consultee responded. The North East Ambulance Service recognised and appreciated the need for the scheme and supported the proposals.
13. 60 responses were returned with 49 in favour of the proposal (82%) and 9 against (15%). 2 responses failed to state a preference.
14. Those that objected stated that the parking bay should be left for general use by shoppers. There is, however, plenty of parking available in Beaumont Street and elsewhere in the town. This proposal only involves the loss of one parking bay.
15. Other objectors stated that they would prefer to see the bay dedicated as disabled parking. There is disabled parking available elsewhere in the town, and to date there is no evidence of demand for additional disabled bays on Beaumont Street.
16. Some objectors suggested alternative locations for the car club bay, including Loosing Hill and Prospect Place car parks. These locations would not give the car club the visibility it needs.

Conclusion

7. It is recommended that, in view of the results of the consultation exercise and the County Council's previous financial support for the car club, the scheme to provide a dedicated parking bay on Beaumont Street should go ahead.

Background Papers

File Ref: HE141320

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	None
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Considerations	None
Sustainability	None
Consultation	The relevant people and organisations were consulted
Wards	Hexham Central with Acomb

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member or Officer(s):

Ian Swithenbank: Policy Board Member,
Streetcare and Environment
Barry Rowland: Executive Director of Local
Services

Subject:

**PROPOSED CAR CLUB PARKING BAY
BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM**

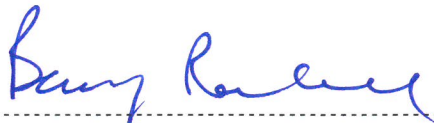
Consultation

60 Responses
49 For
9 Against

Decision Taken:

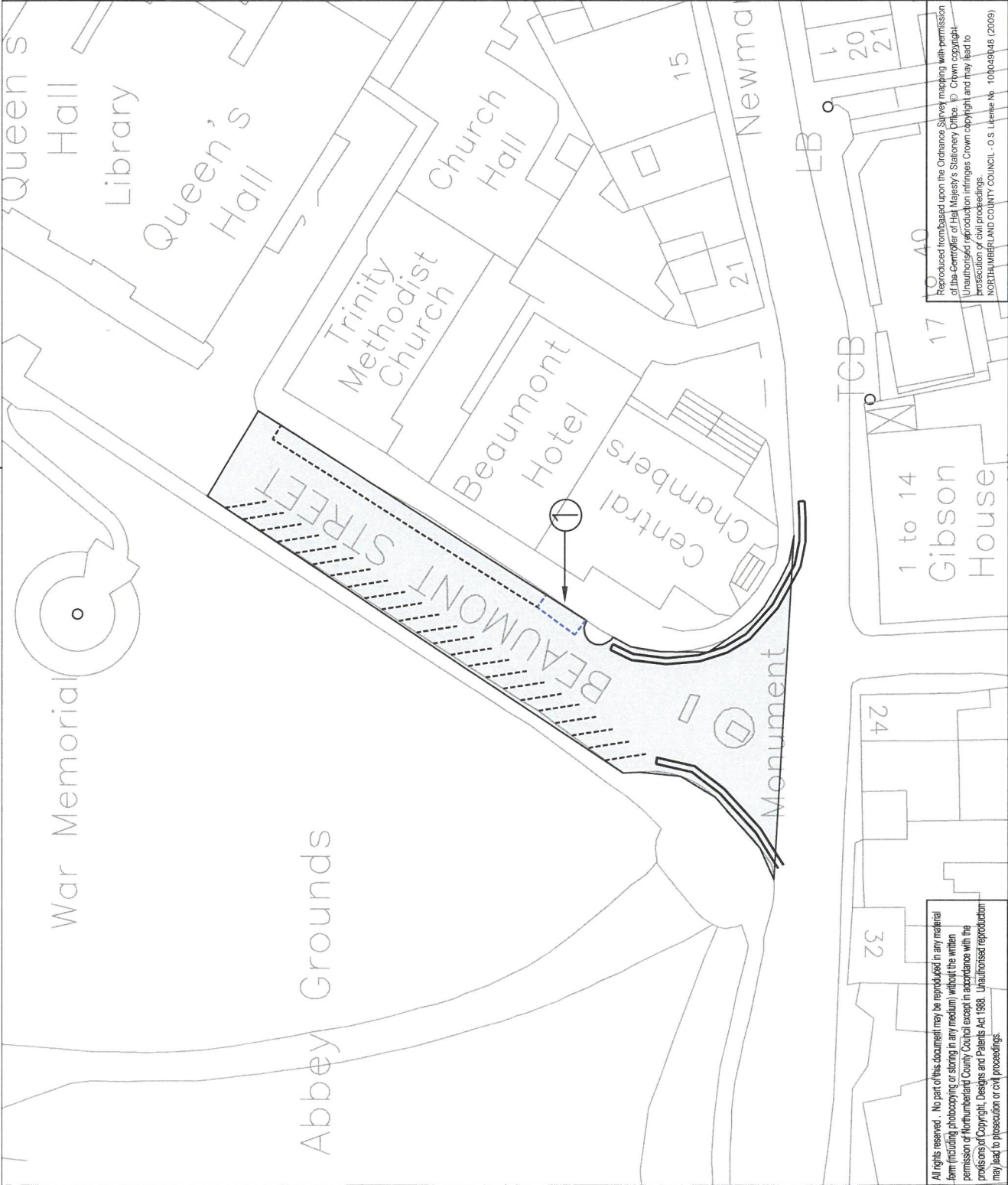
Given the positive outcome of the consultation as well as the comments received it is recommended that the proposals to provide a car club parking bay in Beaumont Street, Hexham, should proceed.

Signature of Corporate Director



Date

11/08/14



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CONTRACT DRAWING No.		DRAWING SIZE A4
Northumberland Northumberland County Council		
NOTES EXISTING 'NO WAITING' RESTRICTIONS TO REMAIN EXISTING LIMITED WAITING PARKING TO REMAIN PROPOSED CAR CLUB BAY REF ①		
Car club permit holders only		
CHECKED : REVISION Drawing Status By Date Rev.		
CONSULTATION		
Client NORTHUMBRLAND COUNTY COUNCIL COUNTY HALL, MORPETH, NORTHUMBRLAND. NE61 2EF Tel. 01670 533000		
Job Title BEAUMONT STREET - HEXHAM		
Drawing Title PROPOSED CAR CLUB BAY PROVISION		
Scales AS SHOWN		
Northumberland Northumberland County Council		
Drm PM	Date 30/05/14	Checked Passed
Drawing Number HE14 - 01		Rev
Job Number/File Number		Rev