



Northumberland County Council

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

**Proposed Prohibition of Driving Except for Access to Off-street Premises'
Gainsborough Place, Glencoe Avenue and 'No Waiting at Any Time'
Restrictions Glenluce Drive – Cramlington**

Purpose of Report

To consider the proposed introduction of 'Prohibition of Driving Except for Access to Off-street Premises' Gainsborough Place, Glencoe Avenue and 'No Waiting at Any Time' Restrictions Glenluce Drive – 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 it is recommended that the proposed 'Prohibition of Driving Except for Access to Off-street Premises' Gainsborough Place, Glencoe Avenue and 'No Waiting at Any Time' Restrictions Glenluce Drive – Cramlington should proceed.

Key Issues

1) Over the course of the past year representatives of the County Council have been working Councillor Hepple, Northumbria Police, Craggside School and the residents of the area to consider solutions to the level of parking during pick up and drop off times.

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**Proposed Prohibition of Driving Except for Access to Off-street Premises'
Gainsborough Place, Glencoe Avenue and 'No Waiting at Any Time'
Restrictions Glenluce Drive – Cramlington**

Background

1. Gainsborough Place and Glencoe Avenue are two cul-de-sacs off Glenluce Drive, Southfield Lea, Cramlington. These roads are adjacent to Cragside Primary School Westloch Road, Southfield Lea, Cramlington. This school has currently 365 pupils attending (as of May 2014 – Government Statistics for School Admissions). This area is frequently used by parents to park when dropping off and collecting children from school.

Introduction

2. Concerns have been expressed by residents of Southfield Green, Cramlington regarding parking issues occurring around school drop off/pick up times.
3. The request for driving and parking restrictions was placed on the Register of requests and was put forward as a priority for the 2014 Members Local Improvement Schemes.

Consultation

4. A scheme was prepared and was the subject of a consultation, which concluded 10th July 2014.
5. The consultation exercise involved the delivery of a consultation letter together with a plan showing details of the scheme to approximately 134 adjacent households, statutory consultees; County Councillors, road user organisations; and other interested parties including the Head teacher at Cragside School . A plan showing the scheme is attached together with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix A).
6. Responses were received from 61 consultees with 58 being in favour and 2 against and one neither for nor against.
7. Most of the residents are in favour of the proposals and the general opinion is that the restrictions are a good idea and will improve parking issues and also road safety for the public, mainly of which would be school children. Many comments request for implementation as early as possible. Other comments stated that this scheme may merely just 'move the problem'.

8. Residents whom objected to the proposal on the grounds they felt the restrictions would not be enforced. This would clearly not be the case, as since the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement, the NCC Parking Services Team has been particularly proactive in similar situations and with a high degree of success. Although not directly responsible for moving traffic offences, they have increasingly developed positive contacts with Northumbria Police who are responsible for this aspect of enforcement (moving traffic offences e.g. prohibition of driving).

Conclusion

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. 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 11% of all consultees who responded were against the proposals.
10. It is recommended that, in view of the results of the consultation exercise, the scheme to implement 'Prohibition of Driving Except for Access to Off-street Premises' Gainsborough Place, Glencoe Avenue and 'No Waiting at Any Time' Restrictions Glenluce Drive – Cramlington goes ahead.

Background Papers

File Ref: M/C/1/108/10

Appendices

Appendix A – Consultation

Appendix B – Consultation Summary

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Scheme will cost approximately £8,000 and will be financed from the 2013/14 Members Local Improvements Scheme.
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Improvements for pedestrian safety
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Considerations	None
Sustainability	None
Consultation	The relevant people and organisations were consulted
Wards	Cramlington (South East)

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 Prohibition of Driving Except for Access to Off-street Premises' Gainsborough Place, Glencoe Avenue and 'No Waiting at Any Time' Restrictions Glenluce Drive – Cramlington

Consultation

61 Responses
58 For
2 Against
1 Neither

Decision Taken:

Given the outcome of the consultation as well as the comments received it is recommended that the above scheme should be provided.

Signature of Executive Director – Local Services

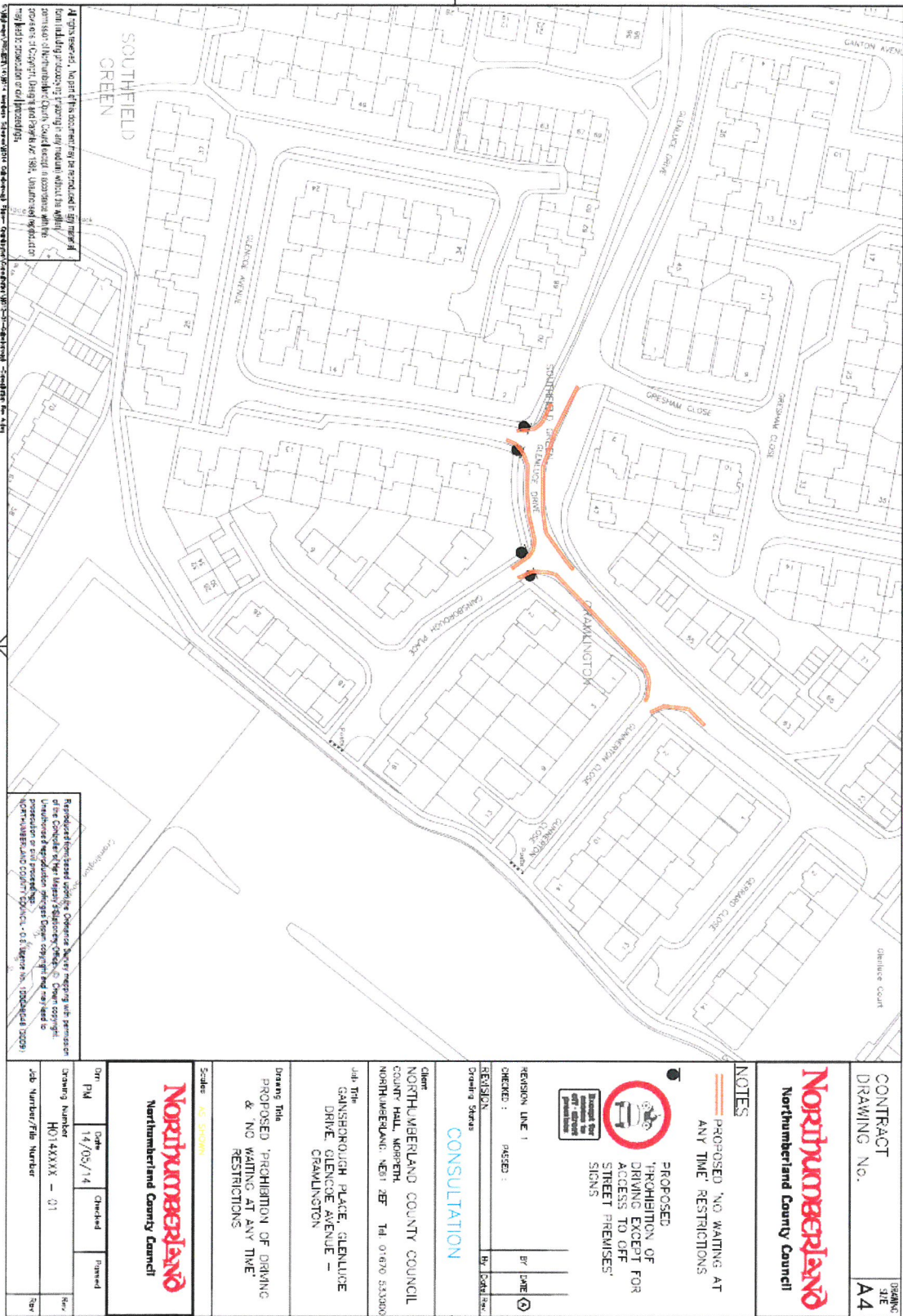

PAUL JONES

HEAD OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date

25/7/14

APPENDIX A



County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF
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The Occupier

Our Ref: M/C/4/110/8/CONS/GP
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Paul McKenna
Direct Line: 01670 624129
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E-mail: Paul.McKenna@northumberland.gov.uk
Thursday 29th May 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed 'Prohibition of Driving Except for Access to Off-street Premises' Gainsborough Place, Glencoe Avenue and 'No Waiting at Any Time' Restrictions Glenluce Drive - Cramlington

Over the course of the past year representatives of the County Council have been working Councillor Hepple, Northumbria Police, Cragside School and the residents of the area to consider solutions to the level of parking during pick up and drop off times.

Following a public meeting in July with residents of Gainsborough Place and Glencoe Avenue, a questionnaire was sent out in September to ask for preferred options and any other comments. The responses were appreciated and are detailed below;

Option 1 – Advisory H Bars – 9 in favour

Option 2 – Resident Permit Zones – 0 in favour

Option 3 – No Waiting at Any time Restrictions – 2 in favour

Option 4 – Prohibition of Driving Except for Access to Off-street Premises – 22 in favour

Option 5 – Other – 7 in favour

A public meeting was then held in February and the overriding response confirmed the figures above. As such, I enclose a formal consultation in relation to the provision of 'Prohibition of Driving Except for Access to off-street Premises' signs at the entry to Gainsborough Place and Glencoe Avenue. To clarify, this means you can only park in the street if you are accessing one of the properties within. Enforcement still resides with the Police for this restriction as it is a moving traffic offence. In addition some 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions are proposed on Glenluce Drive to aid visibility at junctions.

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 10th July 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. Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to all individual comments but staff will be on hand to clarify any queries you may have. You may also wish to note that any comments received may be included in a Decision Report 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.

Yours faithfully



Paul McKenna
Traffic Safety

Appendix B

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
	1		I do not support the proposal because we they will only be enforced if the police are present and the police have already said they can only be present on rare occasions. People will park on the yellow lines and hope to get away with it for the few minutes they will park there. even if the lines are enforced cars will simply move into the adjacent side streets.
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1			Does this affect residents ability to park with Gainsborough Place or do residents require permits.
1			this seems the most sensible way to solve the problem.
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1			There are going to be instant fines, people will not take one bit on notice that they have hit a garden wall and driven off so there is no way they are even going to know what the prohibition sign will mean. It is the school that causes the problem, going to send a letter to the parents at the end of the term explaining what is going to happen and even printing the sign on the letter explaining what it means. how high will the signs be placed, can the sign be put about the street name signs which are at the end of each street. what happens is the signs are ignored, is there fines, legal actions?
1			This needs enforcing as soon as possible looking forward to peace when trying to just get off my drive and having to put up with abuse, bad language and filthy swear words.
1			I am interested to know when this will be applied and also how it will be monitored. Will there be a warden of some sort, or can residents take registration numbers and report the owners to either the police or yourself? I would like to think that the signs will work but unless they are monitored on a daily basis there will still be unauthorised car parking.
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1			the speed limit should be reduced to 20 MPH for the whole estate.
1			Suggests that Gerrard Close and Gunnerton Close become included in the Scheme.
	1		The scheme should include Gunnerton Close and Gerrard Close as both these streets also have access to the cycle track leading to the school and are both currently compromised during school drop off and pick up times. Why were the residents of these two streets not included in the consultation process? The proposed measures to alleviate the problem in Glencoe avenue and Gainsborough Place will not solve the issue but simply displace it to Gunnerton Close and Gerrard Close, as they are constantly being used as turning points at their junction with Glenluce Drive, with witnesses of a collision and several near misses. The 'no waiting at any time' needs to be extended to include Gunnerton Close and Gerrard Close as vision is impaired at these junctions for the residents. The real issue it the protection of children whilst they are pedestrians.
1			

1		These proposals are welcome and should be implemented as soon as possible. However the 'prohibition of driving except for access to off street premises' sign should also be erected at the entrance to Gunnerton Close. It has become a virtual no go area during drop off and pick up times, some cars resorting to parking over residents drive ways. there is an 'accident waiting to happen' during these times such is the volume of the cars. Keeping the cars from Glencoe Avenue and Gainsborough Place will only worsen. As for the 'no waiting at any time' restrictions between Gunnerton and Gainsborough cars will simply park on the other side of the road posing the same problem, also who will be policing this?
	1	Believe it is not necessary, always found parents respectful not blocking drives.
1		Yellow lines on Glenluce to solve other and all parking problems. Signs need to be put up at Gunnerton and Gerrard Close. As the cars will start to park even more in these two streets if the signs are only put up. Car park extension at Glenluce Court would work. If people need to bring the children to school in a car.
1		Have been told that they are not allowed to park their car on the road outside their property however the residents appreciate out dropped kerbs are allowed to park their cars outside their property. I find this unfair , can this be confirmed please.
1		
1		once these restrictions are in place the offenders will move to the nearest streets. In Gunnerton residents experience the same indiscriminate parking so I would suggest the same restrictions are applied to Gunnerton and Gerrard also. A further problem is the parking of residents vehicles on the L.H side going up Glenluce towards Barns Park. Up to 15 vehicles are parked and because of the vend it is difficult to see ahead or pull in to allow vehicles through. accident waiting to happen. As there is sufficient grass verge I suggest a layby or indeed off/on pavement parking to ease the situation.
1		Strongly support and urge early implementation of these proposals. The significant increase in moving vehicular traffic together with indiscriminate parking of the street. This gives rise to a significantly increased risk of injury to pedestrian traffic, mainly parents with young children walking to school together with greatly inhibited access to and from residents premises. waiting restrictions on Glenluce Drive are welcome as parked vehicles occurs simultaneously with increased vehicular traffic making turning out of Gainsborough place difficult and potentially hazardous.
	1	
	1	Leave things as they are
1		Completely support the scheme.
1		Why is this taking so long? Believe the council should just get on with it.
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1		whilst I agree with the no waiting signs in the proposed positions I feel that they should also extend along the road by Gouton avenue. The number of cars passing daily along this stretch means that at all times of the day the road id narrowed to one lane right round the bend, this causes a lot of frustration when drivers meet head on as there is nowhere to pull in once you have committed to go.
1		map highlighting problem areas.
1		We agree with double yellow lines as on map. Agree prohibition of driving. Do not agree with Residential permit zones. Do not agree with H bars.
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1		Should Gunnerton Close and Gerrard close be included on this scheme. Whilst this scheme improves parking for those premises included in this proposal it will push the problem to the above streets. There is parking at the Southfield Green Shops to allow easy access to the cycle track.
1		

1		Parking restrictions should be extended along Glenluce Drive as parked vehicles on the blind bends can lead to frustration to road users and will lead to an accident.
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1		I am happy to support the proposal but my feeling is parents dropping their children at school will ignore the prohibition of driving signage unless the police enforce the restriction. It may be sufficient to have a police presence for a couple of weeks to advise parents of the position. My concern is the parents who normally park on Glenluce Drive will simply move into Glencoe and Gainsborough Place and the situation will be made worse than it currently is.
1		I support the proposals but do you think people will take any notice of the signs. Will there be police officers or parking enforcers going around these areas to check what cars should and shouldn't be parked? Can I also bring up again the issue of resident in Glencoe Avenue parking in Highlighted area of the attached map! This is marked as followed there will be a serious accident one day as oncoming traffic can't see around the tight bend. Also the main road into Southfield Green is a nuisance as cars parked along here outside the flats are parking quite a way along the road. Can you not take up the grass and pave this area so they have somewhere to park!?
1		Very happy to see progress being made, but must emphasise that it will only work if it is policed.
1		
1		When do you expect these signs to be in place?
1		Really pleased that this is being arranged for residents in our street and nearby streets. I have witnessed a few near accidents involving children walking to school as drivers who use this street are not looking out for children they are looking at where they can squeeze their car into.
1		This scheme will only work if you enforce the rules.
1		Although we support the proposals set out for Gainsborough Place and Glencoe Avenue we do think strongly that this should be extended to our street Gunnerton Close and Gerrard Close. As we were not consulted or invited to any meetings we had no say. At the moment we have about 5 or 5 cars parking for the school runs, this proposal goes through to shut off the two streets and as our two streets are smaller this will cause problems and further consultations in the future. It would therefore be better and more cost effective to propose the four streets to have access to off-street premises signs as there is car parking facilities at the car park at the Glenluce shops within easy walking distance of the school.
1		I do not believe the proposals go far enough. If the proposals go forward as detailed in this letter it will simply be a case of the problem being moved to other streets. At the moment my own street, Gunnerton Close, still sees school traffic even with the other streets open. At times I have no access to my drive and I am sure other in my street faces the same problem. If this were to go ahead the cars already using my street would be joined by others being moved on from Gainsborough and Glencoe. To be completely effective the no parking rule needs to stretch to the surrounding streets which will guide the cars to park in the Glenluce Court car park. A further suggestion to aid this would be to develop the unused land outside the Benedictine Club to create more parking.
1		
1		Since we already have problems with vehicles parking whilst parents and grandparents take and pick up children from school the favoured proposal would be welcome if it included Gunnerton Close and Gerrard Close. Any other option would simply result in more inconvenient and inconsiderate parking in the two aforementioned streets.

			<p>Dear Sarah, I would like to express my opposition to the altered access arrangements around Gainsborough Place. The suggestion is heavy handed and would only move the problem to the surrounding streets, particularly Gunnerton Close, where currently some parents do park but do not cause a problem. I do not think any scheme of this kind is appropriate. Currently the problem is spread over a number of streets and so the status quo is the best solution we can hope for unless parents can be persuaded to walk with their children to school. Increased traffic was an inevitable consequence of making Southlands into a first School. If people are parked illegally / unsafely then a police patrol could address that issue very simply without the need for these access arrangements and ugly signs. If parents are not parked illegally / unsafely, residents will just have to live with increased traffic. The more serious problem on the estate is further up Glenluce Drive where individuals parking around the bend between Grey avenue and Gresham Close have reduced Glenluce Drive to one lane and it is not possible to see around the bend. This is very dangerous, particularly a weekends and in the evening and sadly it is only a matter of time before there will be a serious accident. This situation is entirely avoidable as residents of Glenluce drive have parking at the rear of their properties. It would be far more sensible to use the funds allocated for this proposal to put double yellow lines around this dangerous corner and make the estate a safer place. Alternatively a warning from the police to Glenluce Drive residents that parking near a junction or on a bend is unsafe and constitutes a motoring offence, may be sufficient. I am very concerned about this latter matter, if you feel it is not within the scope of this proposal perhaps you could direct me to someone who could help me make some progress on this issue.</p>
	1		
		1	<p>I don't think it is necessary to prohibit driving except for access as it just involved a short period of a school day. If anything needs to be done then I think advisory H bars is all that's needed for people who live in Gainsborough and Part of Glencoe to protect access to driveways. Regarding no waiting in Glenluce perhaps that is necessary near the junctions of adjoining streets.</p>
5			
1	9	1	