

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS, SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS AND BUS BAYS - U6543 NETHERTON LANE, BEDLINGTON (ST BENET BISCOP'S RC HIGH SCHOOL)

Executive 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 various parking restrictions together with the introduction of a Bus Stand area to be used to drop off high school pupils in the morning only, together with the introduction of the necessary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to enable enforcement.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that in view of the consultation exercise, and comments made by residents, the only restrictions which should be introduced at this time are the School Keep Clear Markings and No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions. However, further investigations will be carried out with a view to consulting on a revised scheme as "Phase Two" of this project in September.

Key issues

The scheme was prepared and consultation has taken place. Forty households were consulted together with thirty-three statutory consultees. There was a very low response rate to the consultation with a total of eight local residents responding with two in favour and six against the proposals. Three additional consultees responded, with two in favour and one anonymous consultee against the proposals.

Report Author

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**PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS, SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR
MARKINGS AND BUS BAYS - U6543 NETHERTON LANE, BEDLINGTON
(ST BENET BISCOP'S RC HIGH SCHOOL)**

BACKGROUND

- 1) As part of on-going improvements to address road safety issues for pupils and parents travelling to and from St Bede's RC Primary School and St Benet Biscop's RC High School in Bedlington, the County Council have been working together with various parties including Councillor Johnstone, Bedlington Town Council, St Benet Biscop's RC High School and School Transport Operators to address these concerns.
- 2) Whilst improvement works have already been carried out on Ridge Terrace at the school entrances, there are still numerous issues which need to be addressed at the St Benet Biscop's RC High School exit sited on Netherton Lane. In response of this, numerous site meetings and visits have been undertaken and proposals for various parking restrictions together with the introduction of a Bus Stand area to be used to drop high school pupils in the morning only were drawn up. These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to forty households, and thirty-three statutory consultees, such as the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. It should be noted that previous experience of various consultation exercises regarding a range of proposals indicates that these statutory consultees rarely reply. 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 13 August 2014, and responses were received from eight households immediately affected by the proposals. Two of these were in favour and six were against the proposals. Three additional responses were received, one from the North East Ambulance Service who were the only statutory consultee who responded indicating that they were in favour, one from a resident of Bedlington Station also in favour, and finally one anonymous consultee who was against the proposals. Given the sensitivity of this scheme and the fact that these responses are not from residents living in the area, it was decided that these responses should be discounted. A summary of all responses received is attached as Appendix 2.
- 4) Despite the negative feedback from the consultation exercise, it is clear that the current situation needs to improve. The County Council are therefore going to proceed with the introduction of School Keep Clear Markings and No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions (Double Yellow Lines) only at this stage. A plan showing the revised proposals is attached as Appendix 3.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5) 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 concerns have been expressed regarding the extent of the proposed No Waiting between 8am – 5pm restrictions and the proposed Bus Stand area intended to drop off high school pupils in the mornings only. Residents are concerned that such restrictions will make the current problem worse. It is therefore recommended that the only restrictions which should be introduced at this time are the School Keep Clear Markings and No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions. However, further investigations will be carried out with a view to consulting on a revised scheme as “Phase Two” of this project in September.
- 6) 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.
- 7) Accordingly it is recommended that the Executive Director of Local Services to note the objections but agree to proceed with the introduction of the following Traffic Regulation Order;
 - West Northumberland Area (Waiting and Loading) Composite Order 2011 Amendment No. 22 Order 2014.

APPENDIX INDEX

Appendix 1 – Consultation Letter and Plan

Appendix 2 – Summary of Consultation Responses

Appendix 3 – Plan showing amended proposals

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Road Traffic Act 2004

Local Government Act 2000

File Ref: M/F/3/110

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme will cost approximately £3,000 and will be financed from the 2014/15 Mass Action 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	Bedlington Town Council, the emergency services, nearby residents, and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillors for the area.
Wards	Bedlington West and Bedlington East

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member and Executive Director:

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

Subject:

Proposed Parking Restrictions – St Benet Biscop's
RC High School – U6543 Netherton Lane, Bedlington

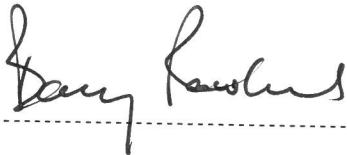
Consultation:

Bedlington Town Council, the emergency services, nearby residents, and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillors for the area.

Decision Taken:

It is recommended that in view of the consultation exercise, and comments made by residents, the only restrictions which should be introduced at this time are the School Keep Clear Markings and No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions. However, further investigations will be carried out when the school returns in September with a view to consulting on a revised scheme as "Phase Two" of this project.

Signature of Executive Director



Date

19/08/14

APPENDIX 1 – CONSULTATION LETTER AND PLAN

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF

• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: M/F/3/110

Your Ref:

Contact: Mr Kevin Brown

Direct Line: 01670 624127

Fax: 01670 626136

E-mail: Kevin.Brown@northumberland.gov.uk

Thursday 17th July 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Waiting Restrictions, School Keep Clear Markings and Bus Bays **U6543 Netherton Lane, Bedlington**

As part of on-going improvements to address road safety issues for pupils and parents travelling to and from St Bede's RC Primary School and St Benet Biscop's RC High School in Bedlington, the County Council have been working together with various parties including Councilor Tyler, Councilor Johnstone, Bedlington Town Council, St Benet Biscop's RC High School and School Transport Operators to address these concerns.

Whilst improvement works have already been carried out on Ridge Terrace at the school entrances, there are still numerous issues which need to be addressed at the St Benet Biscop's RC High School exit sited on Netherton Lane. In view of this, the County Council is consulting on various parking restrictions together with the introduction of a Bus Stand area to be used to drop off high school pupils in the mornings only. The proposed measures are shown in detail on the attached plan.

It is anticipated that the introduction of these restrictions will improve road safety by offering increased visibility throughout the day, as well as making it easier for buses to negotiate the school exit in the afternoon.

The County Council is seeking your views on the proposals and a freepost response form is attached to 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 Decision Report, and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is shown on the response form. 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.

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 enclosed form or go online at <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

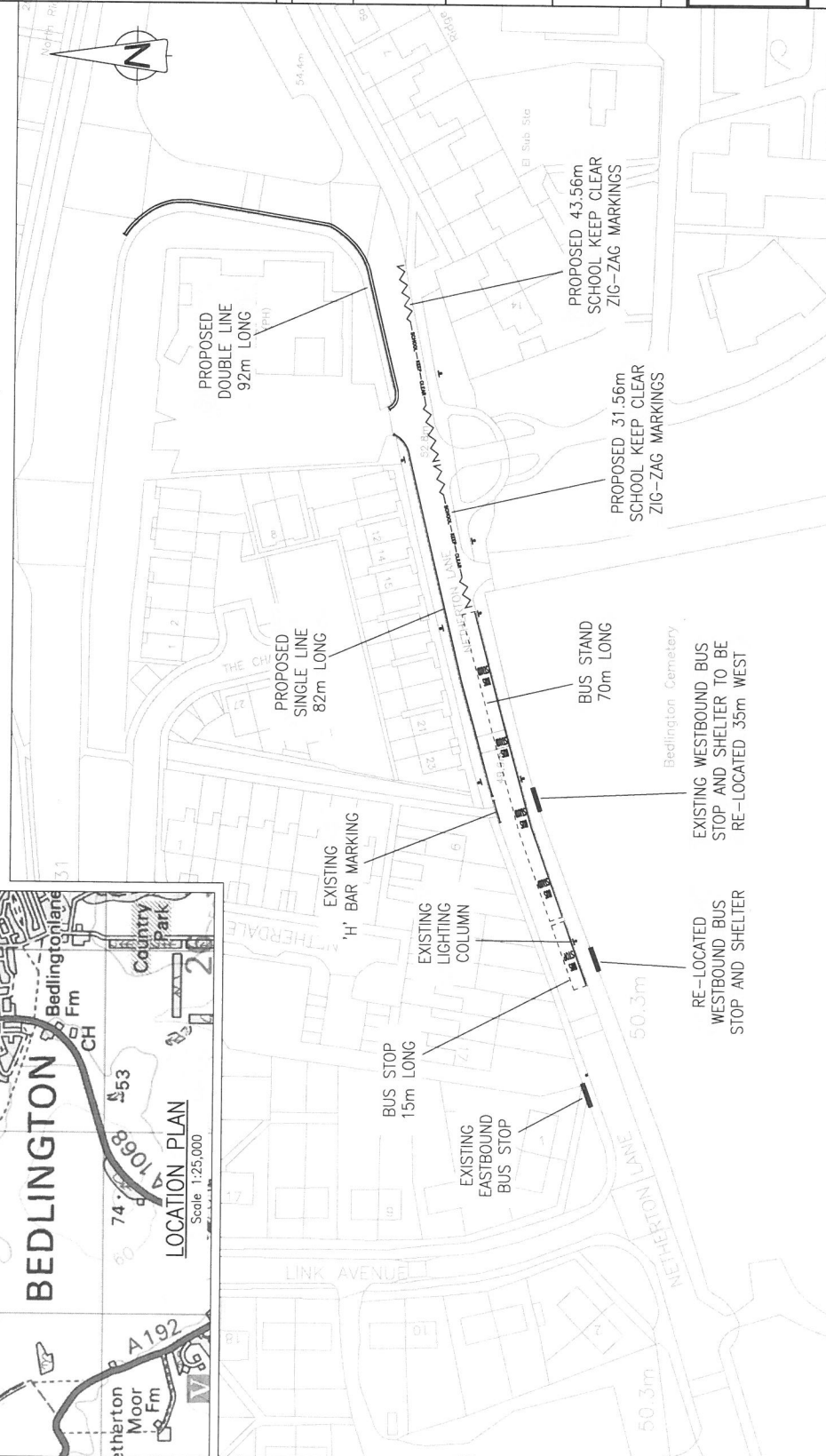
Yours faithfully

Kevin Brown
Senior Transport Projects Officer





- KEY:
- PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGN INDICATING RESTRICTION
 - NO WAITING AT ANY TIME RESTRICTIONS
 - NO WAITING BETWEEN 8am - 5pm RESTRICTIONS
 - RE-LOCATED BUS STOP - 15m LONG
 - PROPOSED BUS STAND - 70m LONG
 - SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS EFFECTIVE BETWEEN 8am - 5pm



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CONTRACT
DRAWING No.

Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

NOTES

1.0 ROAD MARKINGS
1.1 ALL ROAD MARKINGS TO BE IN YELLOW THERMOPLASTIC SCREENED WITH APPLIED GLASS BEADS.

REVISION	By	Date	Rev.

CONSULTATION

Client
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL, MORPETH.
NORTHUMBERLAND. NE61 2EF

Job Title
ST BENET BISCHOPS RC HIGH SCHOOL,
NETHERTON LANE, BEDLINGTON

Drawing Title
PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Scales 1:25,000 & 1:1000 @ A3

Northumberland
Northumberland County Council
HIGHWAYS & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Drn	Date	Checked	Passed
PJ	JUN '14	KB	
Drawing Number	HF141516/01/B1331	Rev	
Job Number/File Number		Rev	

APPENDIX 2 - COPY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Initial	Name	No	Thoroughfare	Post Code	FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
			Burnside	NE22 7JJ	1			Seems to be an excellent solution to the on-going problems in the area.
			the chase	NE22 6BY	1			the reason we do not support this is because we park one vehicle out the front of our house as there is no space around the back. We have recently requested car parking permits for residents which would resolve the issue of yellow lines. Yellow lines outside the property will down value the price of our house so we are against this obviously. We understand from our local MP that the county council and the school have been in talks for sometime re safety measures, why have the residents not been invited to attend.
			Netherdale	NE22 6HB	1			It will cause more problems doing what you have proposed. How about moving grass verge and making it car spaces for residents only. I do not want the new proposal to go ahead it's a very busy road and it would make it dangerous to cross.
						1		it will cause congestion outside 9-17 Netherdale. Unless grass verge can be made parking for these houses.
	North East Ambulance service			NE15 8NY	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 would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.
			ridge villas	NE22 6EA	1			We agree with the proposals with some reservations. We reside at 10 ridge villas, on occasions we have difficulty gaining access to our driveway, due to peoples parked cars or stationary cars waiting to collect pupils all dropping them off. The cars often partly parking the grass areas outside our house causing damage to the grass areas. the parking bays for ridge villas are occupied during the day by families waiting to pick up their children restricting the ability of our own families to visit. If when these proposals are implemented we feel the problems we experience will be compounded further because people who are parking in the new restricted will find the nearest point to park. the areas outside our areas should be designated to residents.
			Netherdale	NE22 6HB	1			The traffic along nethererton lane is a nightmare to begin with without adding buses to the equation, I live in netherdale and have two sons who go to St Bedes school a five year old and a four year old, the no waiting veturn set hours never works and is ignored. so i dont think that will help the traffic. on more than one occasion i have had to pull my children out of the way because cars have started reversing without ny checks or indication plus i have work in towns were high school pupils or picked up or dropped off from NDN school premises and they is nobody taking control of them the swearing and litter will increase as a mother of two small boys and really feel this would be a bad move on the council instead they should be dealing with the speeding issues along this road.
			The Chase	NE22 6BY	1			As a resident of the Chase , off St Benet Biscop, I am totally against having lines outside of my property, parking is not always available at the rear of the chase, therefore we park outside the front of the house, this would then be restricted, my wife is registered disabled, and access is far easier for her from the front. i am also strongly against having a bus stand opposite my property, when i look out of my lounge window i have a view of the cemetery which would be spoiled by cottages parked in the way. i hope i am not the only resident of the chase that feels the same instead of yellow lines would permit parking not making more sense then the people that live here would not be affected.
			Link Avenue	NE22 6DN	1			Will force parking down to Link Avenue and will cause top of Link Avenue to become a bigger problem with U turn drivers trying to avoid traffic where buses are parked, it will also cause Link Ave and North Ridge to become a circular to avoid the bus area also. PS my car has already been hit due to the U turn behaviour of some motorists already.
			the chase	NE22 6BY	1			I live at 11 The Chase which is one of the properties directly opposite the school exit. When I purchased my property I did so knowing that I had ample parking for myself as well as family/friends/partner and trades persons who attend my address. The property is a three bedroom house and comes with only one parking space therefore I regularly park outside the front of my house when I have people visiting and when other persons use my bay. There are a couple of visitor parking bays at the back of my address but these are always taken by residents with two or more cars. (There are 6 visitor bays shared by 26 houses). I work shifts sometimes finishing work at 3am and when I return home from work I park my car at the front of my house as there are normally no spaces free around the back and so I can get into my house safely. If the parking restrictions were put into place I would have to park a distance away from my property which would be unsafe in the early hours of the morning to walk on my own. The only other option for me would be to park outside my property at 3.30am and get back up at 7.30am to move my car which would not be possible every morning and I would be worried about incurring a ticket. I also regularly use the front of my property to carry heavy loads into my house during the day as I have no access to the front of my address from my rear garden. It is a lot easier to access my address from the front than the rear due to rear steps etc. The same applies when I have disabled visitors at my address - there are a number of steps at the rear of my address and therefore disabled family/friends have to attend my property from the front.

							<p>Again I have no access to my front door from the back of my address as I have no side gate. In addition to this the car park at the rear of my address has restrictions. Work vehicles/caravans etc. are not allowed to park in here which was clearly outlined in the deeds of the property when I purchased. Therefore two of my neighbours who own small vans would have nowhere to park their vehicles during the day and if anyone attends my address with a vehicle of this description during the day there would have to park miles from my house which would be inadequate if needed to carry things in or I was getting work done.</p> <p>Putting the parking restrictions in place would also reduce the value of my house. I purchased my house due to the availability of parking as this is a three bedroomed house. If I sell my property onto a family they would essentially need parking and if I had known about these parking measures I would not have purchased my property as I'm sure others would not want to purchase if I attempt to sell on. My visitors/friends to my property would have nowhere to park as the only place available for them to park during the day and evenings is at the front of my house. I would not be able to get access to my property easily as my parking space in the rear is a short distance away from my door.</p>
							<p>When I return home with shopping during the day I park outside the front of my house as the bags are too heavy to carry across a parking area and up the back steps at the rear of my address. Link Avenue is another street which would be affected by the plans. Link Avenue is a small street where there are already parking issues. Traffic needs to flow freely down this street to get access to other residential areas and there are already issues with parking as a number of the properties do not have parking available. Because of this cars have to drive down this street one at a time as there isn't enough room for two cars. The yellow lines proposed would also cause further access problems to this street as numerous students/residents will be forced to park down here and traffic will not be able to get through. In relation to the bus bays, Netherton Lane is a small road which would cause more parking problems if there were big buses parked along here. One large school bus takes up half of the road. Essentially you are saying cars can no longer park during the day on Netherton lane but instead larger buses are going to park here on a morning to drop children off essentially blocking more of the road than one line of cars would. I have been told that residents on Ridge Terrace have complained of parking problems with school buses where they live and so your solution is it moves the buses to outside my house instead.</p>
							<p>This is just moving one problem from their door to outside my door. The school buses should be dropping children off inside the school grounds therefore reducing any risk to children getting off and other road users on the public roads. Drop offs inside the school prevent problems for members of the public travelling along Netherton Lane, children getting off the buses and make it more safe as large vehicles are not blocking the roads stopping and starting. I have taken a photo of one of the large school buses which parked outside of my address last week and it took up a full lane on the road causing issues for vehicles trying to overtake and this was just one bus. There will be so many more problems if there are 2 or more buses parked along this street. Zig Zag Lines. I agree zig zag lines outside the school gates would assist across the road helping children leaving the school and be a safer option for pedestrians however having a bus area outside dropping off students would mean the road becomes more clogged and unsafe in the mornings. I agree that permit holder parking would be an option for residents so that we can park our vehicles at the front of our properties with the reduction of parked vehicles along the road due to non-residents. This would assist me during my shift work and for visitors attending my address. I have added a photo of a permit holder's area in Newcastle which would assist residents in the proposals being made. I think a meeting needs to be arranged to discuss issues with residents - plans are being made without ourselves being able to ask questions and make representations.</p>
		Ridge Villas	NE22 6EA	1			<p>The addition of extra waste bins to prevent rubbish being discarded whilst waiting for transport. Consideration of parking for those properties directly across from the planned bus stand several vehicles currently park there at all times.</p>
				4	7	0	

APPENDIX 3 – REVISED SCHEME

