

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

Corporate Director of Local Services - Barry Rowland

PROPOSED '30 MINUTE LIMITED WAITING' BAYS NEWMARKET - MORPETH

Purpose of report:

To consider introducing '30 minute limited waiting' bays on Newmarket in Morpeth

Recommendations:

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

1) The provision of '30 minute limited waiting' bays on Newmarket in Morpeth

Key issues

- 1) The businesses operating on Newmarket are impaired by current restrictions preventing short term parking.

Report Author

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PROPOSED '30 MINUTE LIMITED WAITING' BAYS NEWMARKET - MORPETH

BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 1) Newmarket is located in the centre of Morpeth with businesses and services operating on both sides of the road. Newmarket provides access to Riverside Leisure Centre, as well as residential properties situated on Carlisle View, Waterside, Whalebone Lane and Pretoria Avenue. There are 5 pay and display car parks operating in the immediate vicinity. Newmarket East, Newmarket West and Whalebone are all medium stay and offer a minimum charge of 30p for a half hour stay. That charge remains for Mathesons Gardens and Greys Yard which are both long stay.
- 2) The width of the road varies quite considerably throughout and averages at around 7 metres. 'No Waiting at Any time' restrictions operate down the entire east side and on a section of the west side as you enter the road via Bridge Street for a stretch of 50 metres. The remainder of the west side is subject to a 'No Waiting Monday – Saturday 8am-6pm restriction.
- 3) Business owners approached the County Council to ask for provision of free short term parking outside the shop fronts to aid quick turnover. The nature of the goods being sold in terms of fast food and groceries means it is unlikely customers will pay the fee of parking and walk an increased distance if they are only stopping for a matter of minutes. As such, many customers take the risk and park on the restrictions for a short time. Additionally, a number of blue badge holders consider the area a safe place to park without impinging on the free flow of traffic.

Consultation

- 4) Consultation took place throughout September 2013 with a proposal to introduce a total of 5 bays permitting free parking for up to 30 minutes as per Appendix 1. These would be located in areas where the free flow of traffic would not be compromised and would also factor in the potential for blue badge holders to continue to park on the restrictions.
- 5) 47 consultation letters were sent out to those affected and to associated statutory bodies. Of those that responded there were no objections and 4 indicated their preference for the scheme, (see Appendix 2). Policing the scheme was mentioned as a key requirement to its success and it will be enforced by the County Councils Civil Enforcement Officers. The fact that it is well used currently was also cited but the time limit imposed will ensure that customers park for short periods only.

- 6) 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 & Proposal

Appendix 2 – Consultation Summary

BACKGROUND PAPERS

File Ref: M/F/2/107/2

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	None
Finance and value for money	To be financed by Local Transport Plan Fund
Human Resources:	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Residential and business use
Sustainability	None.
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Considerations:	Motorists will be required to comply with the restrictions imposed.
Consultation	Emergency Services, Road User Organisations, County Councillor for the area.
Wards	Morpeth Central Ward

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member Ian Swithenbank – Policy Board Member,
Local Services

Subject: *PROPOSED '30 MINUTE LIMITED WAITING'
BAYS- NEWMARKET - MORPETH*

Consultation 4 Responses
4 For
0 Against
0 Neither

Decision Taken: *TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR '30
MINUTE LIMITED WAITING' BAYS-
NEWMARKET - MORPETH*

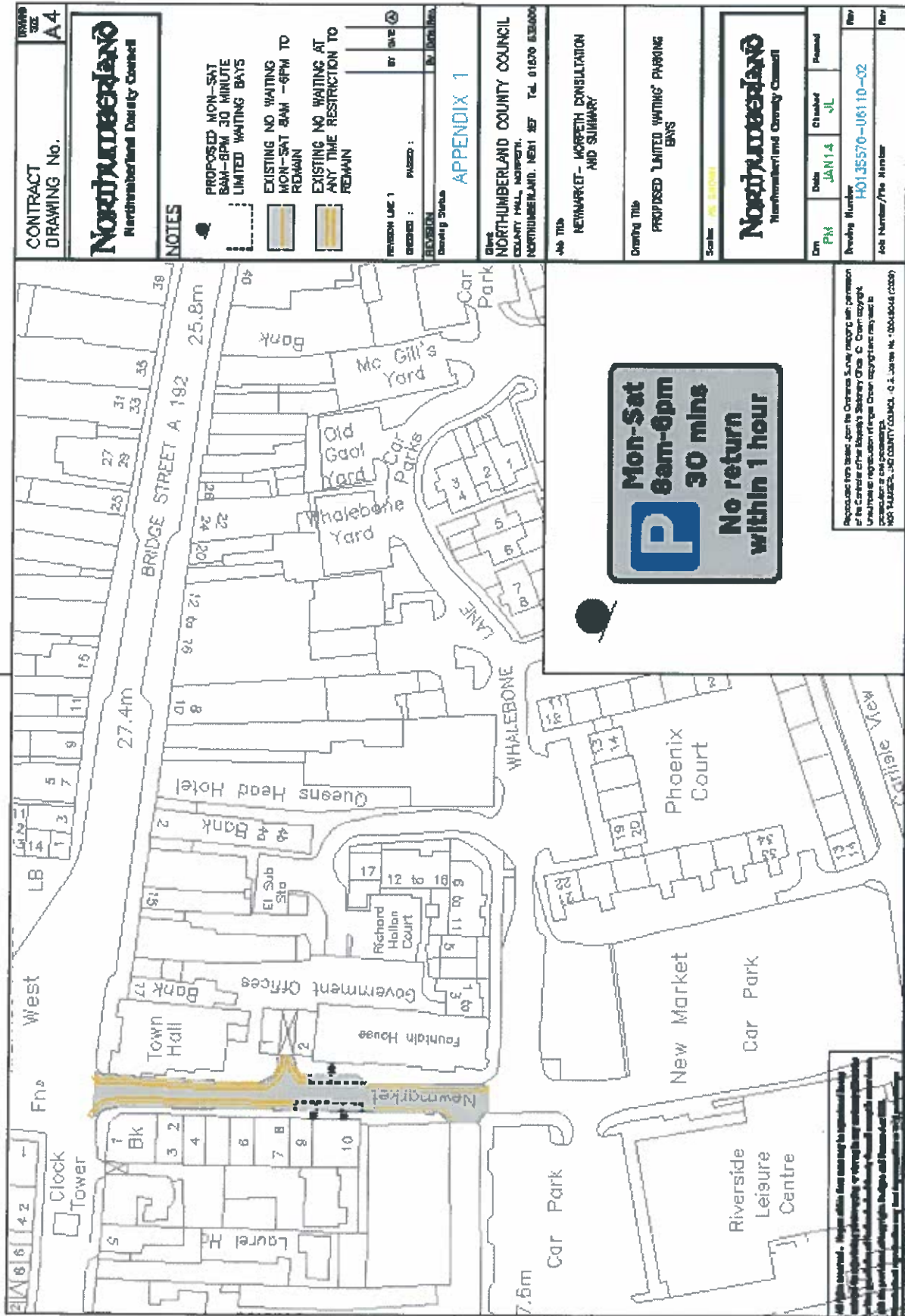
Signature of Corporate Director

Barry Rowland

Date

22/01/14

Appendix 1 – Consultation Plan & Proposal



Appendix 2 – Consultation Summary

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	
			APPENDIX 2 CONSULTATION SUMMARY - NEWMARKET - MORPETH
1			I fully support the proposed drawing for the short term parking bays on New market. I believe this will encourage shoppers to use all businesses on New market helping us to survive for many years to come.
1			Great idea as long as it is will policed so that people don't abuse it.
1			Whilst a good idea, the spaces proposed are very often blocked by users anyway, so I am not certain the proposal will help a great deal, but any additional parking would benefit our business.
1			I would inform you that as an emergency service we recognise and appreciate 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.
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