

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

PROPOSED NO WAITING AT ANY TIME RESTRICTIONS – U6701 WANSBECK ROAD & DENE VIEW WANSBECK ROAD BACK LANE, ASHINGTON

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 additional parking restrictions in the form of No Waiting At Any Time Restrictions at Wansbeck Road and Dene View Wansbeck Road Back Lane, Ashington, together with the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to enable enforcement.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that in view of the consultation exercise, and comments made during various site meetings, the parking restrictions should be introduced as proposed together with the necessary Traffic Regulation Order to enable enforcement.

Key issues

- 1) Indiscriminate Parking
- 2) Safety concerns for pedestrians.
- 3) Supported by Local Councillors, majority of residents and Senior Civil Parking Enforcement Officer.

Report Author	Neil Snowdon – Transport Projects Officer (01670) 624128 Neil.Snowdon@northumberland.gov.uk
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**PROPOSED NO WAITING AT ANY TIME RESTRICTIONS –
U6701 WANSBECK ROAD & DENE VIEW WANSBECK ROAD BACK
LANE, ASHINGTON**

BACKGROUND

- 1) Due to on-going issues regarding indiscriminate parking in the vicinity of Wansbeck First School in Ashington, residents of Wansbeck Road, with the support of Local Council Members Lynne Grimshaw and Brian Gallacher, have requested additional parking restrictions to be introduced. Of particular concern is the traffic congestion at school start and finish times.
- 2) In response to this various site meetings have been held with both Councillor Grimshaw and Councillor Gallacher to discuss a suitable solution. It was agreed that parking restrictions in the form of No Waiting At Any Time Restrictions would assist in improving the current situation. These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 72 households, and approximately 25 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. 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 18 June 2014, and responses were received from 31 consultees, with 25 in favour and 6 (19%) against the proposals. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix 2.
- 4) Only two responses were received from statutory consultees, one from the North East Ambulance Service, and the other from the Senior Civil Parking Enforcement Officer, who are generally the only statutory consultees to respond to such consultation exercises. Both indicated that they were in favour of the proposals.

IN FAVOUR

- 5) Whilst indicating their support of the proposals on the response form provided, residents also made the following comments:-
 - Residents Permit Scheme is also required.
 - Needs to be monitored to ensure restrictions are adhered to and motorists refrain from parking in back lanes.
 - Additional restrictions are required on side roads and back lanes.
 - Hopefully restrictions will reduce threatening and abusive behaviour from parents of children attending Wansbeck First School.
- 6) Given these comments, a request for a Residents Permit Scheme will be recorded on the Directory of Requests Database for consideration in a future Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme.

- 7) Once the new restrictions are in place, we will ensure that Civil Parking Enforcement Officers regularly visit the area as part of their current route.

OBJECTIONS

- 8) The overwhelming concern made by those objecting to the scheme was that the proposals would only move the problem further down Wansbeck Road. There were also concerns that the restrictions would have a negative impact on side streets and back lanes. It is therefore proposed that once the scheme is implemented, the situation will be monitored and further restrictions will be considered if necessary. If additional restrictions are deemed necessary, these will be added to our Requests Database for consideration in future works programmes.
- 9) We will also arrange for our Road Safety Officers to contact the school with the aim of educating parents to refrain from indiscriminately parking on Wansbeck Road.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10) 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 it is clear that the majority of residents who have responded are in favour of the proposals, and from a road safety point of view, the restrictions will significantly improve the safety of children and parents attending Wansbeck Road First School, while also improving the current situation for residents. It is therefore recommended that the parking restrictions are introduced as proposed, together with the necessary TRO to enable enforcement.
- 11) 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.
- 12) Accordingly it is recommended that the Committee agree to advise the Corporate Director of Local Services to note the objections but agree to proceed with the introduction of the following Traffic Regulation Order;
- South East Northumberland Area (Waiting and Loading) Composite Order 2011 Amendment No. 18 Order 2014.

APPENDIX INDEX

Appendix 1 – Consultation Letter and Plan

Appendix 2 – Summary of Consultation Responses

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Road Traffic Act 2004

Local Government Act 2000

File Ref: M/C/1/107/2/WB

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 Councillor Grimshaw's Local Members Small Schemes Budget (LTP)
Human Resources:	None
Property	None
Equalities	Correct lines and signs will help improved enforcement
Risk Assessment	Residential area, route to school, indiscriminate parking 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	Ashington Town Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillors for the area.
Wards	Bothal and Haydon

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 No Waiting At Any Time Restrictions –
U6701 Wansbeck Road & Dene View Wansbeck
Road Back Lane, Ashington

Consultation:

31 Responses
25 For
6 Against
0 Neutral

Decision Taken:

To approve the proposal for the implementation of
additional No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions at
Wansbeck Road & Dene View Wansbeck Road Back
Lane, Ashington

Signature of Executive Director



Date



APPENDIX 1 – CONSULTATION LETTER AND PLAN

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF

• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: M/C/1/107/2/WB

Your Ref:

Contact: Mr Paul McKenna

Direct Line: 01670 624129

Fax: 01670 626136

E-mail: Paul.McKenna@northumberland.gov.uk

Wednesday 7th May 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed 'No Waiting' Restrictions – Wansbeck Road, Dene View Wansbeck Road Back Lane – Ashington

At the request of residents and with the support of your Local Council Members Lynne Grimshaw and Brian Gallacher, representatives of the County Council are considering introducing 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions on Wansbeck Road and Dene View Wansbeck Road Back Lane in Ashington. Details can be found on the attached plan provided.

Whilst the pedestrian guardrail that was recently introduced and funded by Councillor Grimshaw and the County Council, has proven successful in reducing road safety concerns there are safety issues relating to inconsiderate parking taking place in the immediate vicinity.

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 facilitating the safe passage of vehicular traffic.

I would welcome a reply by **Wednesday 18th June 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
Transport Projects Team

CONTRACT DRAWING No.		DRAWING SIZE A3
Northumberland Northumberland County Council		
NOTES EXISTING RESTRICTIONS PROPOSED 'NO WAITING AT ANY TIME' RESTRICTIONS		
REVISION Drawing Status By Date Rev.		
CONSULTATION		
Client NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL COUNTY HALL, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 2EF Tel. 01670 533000		
Job Title U6701 WANSBECK ROAD - ASHINGTON		
Drawing Title PROPOSED 'NO WAITING AT ANY TIME' RESTRICTIONS		
Scales AS SHOWN		
Northumberland Northumberland County Council		
Drm JM	Date APR 14	Checked JL
Drawing Number H014-01-UE527		Rev
Job Number/File Number		Rev



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APPENDIX 2 - SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Post Code	FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
	1			I fully support these restrictions being put in place. There are serious problems for footpath users due to cars parking half on the footpath & half on the road. It disrupts traffic flow at busy times.
NE63 8HZ	1			Although I support the proposal, as safety concerns are of upmost importance, I am concerned how this is going to affect myself as a resident. Parking is already an issue for us residents and I feel that the proposal is going to make this issue even worse for us at times. Currently many parents will park up outside our houses to pick up their children. At times I have seen parents sit in their cars for a considerable amount of time waiting to pick up their children. I have a baby who is 4 weeks old and I cannot even park outside, or close to my own house at times. Not all residents have access to the rear of their houses, and the residents of Malvern Terrace?? already feel that they are the only people who have a right to park in the lane. People park very inconsiderately at times and do not give much thought to the residents who would like to access their own homes. I feel that the proposal you are making is going to make this worse for us as it seems there are going to be no restrictions on parking outside our homes. I feel that there should be restrictions in place as well as residents parking only. I would quite happily pay for a permit if it meant I could actually park outside my house. I also feel that there should be parking bays marked out on the road to ensure that people are park considerately.
NE63 8JD		1		It will only move the problem further down Wansbeck Road.
NE63 8JD		1		1. I welcome your request for comments although I do not support the proposal, because it does not go far enough. 2. I gather from the plan supplied that 'no waiting restrictions' will stop on Wansbeck road opposite no. 76 and between 74 and 76 regarding the back lane. 3. I believe that this proposal will merely move the 'problem' further along Wansbeck road thereby making the rest of the road 'unsafe' for vehicular traffic and pedestrians wishing to cross the road. 4. The next back lane, not shown on your plan, house numbers would be around no.100 is currently 'semi permanently' used as a parking space by certain residents and causes turning into the rear access of Wansbeck road a danger to road users and pedestrians. As you will be aware the 'back lanes access' are very narrow and only just wide enough for two cars to pass. 5. I would likewise welcome your comments.
NE63 8JB	1			I support the proposal would you also look at only resident parking permits (suggest 2/house)
NE63 8JB	1			I think it is a good idea to have the restrictions on the second part of the drawing (the long part of the street) however residents already have difficulties parking in the back lane due to school traffic. Residents regularly receive verbal abuse from parents and the police are reluctant to help. I fear the proposed restrictions would make this worse. I think the restriction beside the vicarage should be limited to school times as residents there have difficulties with parking already.
NE63 8JB	1			
NE63 8JB	1			
NE63 8JD	1			This would need to be monitored to ensure people do obey the new road rules on Wansbeck Road and don't start parking in the back lanes again.
NE63 8HZ	1			
NE63 8JA	1			I totally support these measures but could you also enforce residents parking only at the side roads and rear of Wansbeck Road - also in Wansbeck mews. We residents also have trouble with our parking at school times. Cars from these school runs are also parking on the park which is causing deep trenches at edges.
NE63 8JB	1			I welcome any restrictions that will lessen the dangers caused by inconsiderate parking in Wansbeck Road & Dene View. Apart from the very obvious problems caused by school time parking on pavements & in the back lane of Dene View & Wansbeck Road. The 20mph speed limit is ignored. People who actually garage their cars are forced to join the main road blind & at risk. While I support the restrictions suggested I hope they will not mean that illegal parking will increase in the back lane of Wansbeck Road & Dene View. Realistically only a police or traffic wardens presence will stop some people from causing these problems.
NE63 8JB	1			To make this scheme successfully a regular police presence is needed on a regular basis.
NE63 8JB	1			
NE63 8JA	1			Why not permit parking for residents?
	1			
NE63 8JB	1			Access to my home in Wansbeck Rd is impossible at school times, front road and back lane blocked by parents and teachers. Road from Wansbeck Rd to Wansbeck News is marked as one way but is used as two way, goods vehicles and cars. Access only signs off Wansbeck Road are ignored and not policed.

	1		Further to your plan of Wansbeck Rd and surrounding area: the restrictions also need to be in the back lane and Dene View, as parents coming to the Wansbeck school pay no attention, what so ever, of the restriction signs already there. We have lived here for 40 years and the problem has increased dramatically over the last 10 years. Sometimes we are unable to access our own garage or even a space in front of our house. We whole heartedly agree to more parking restrictions, but they fall short of requirements as they should include the lane behind Wansbeck and Dene View. However we have concerns about parking for ourselves and family cars. Perhaps a 'residents badge' issued to us could be displayed on the dash board could be the answer. Plus more patrols of traffic wards or community police.
NE63 8HZ	1		I am pleased you are doing something about the parking as it is terrible, it is the same around the church. Sometimes you cannot get parked or get in so I was wondering if you were doing anything about that parking it is always blocked. I would be grateful if you could do something as well as the front.
NE63 8HZ	1		
NE63 8HZ	1		I support this proposal 100%. Very, very often I can neither access or exit my address, primarily because of parents dropping their children off at school. If I have early morning doctors/hospital appointments I have to position my car near the main road as possible for some period of time before the parents arrive. Ditto afternoon. Sometimes even a motorcycle couldn't get through!! If we could have a 'no waiting' sign at the entrance/ exit of Hendon House onto the main thoroughfare it would help enormously. Church visitors are also very unthinking sometimes, but the church is there so they are entitled, I think, to use the church approach roads. The parents of the Wansbeck school children can surely alternatively use the huge park car park. It is no further for them to walk. Good luck.
NE63 8HZ	1		
NE63 8JD	1		We have lived at Wansbeck Road for over 30 years and are delighted that you are going to implement no parking restrictions. We have been denied access to our property, garage and garden on a regular daily basis. As well as having to put up with threatening and abusive behaviour when they are asked to move their vehicles. We have already requested that the no waiting restrictions be taken right down the back lane of Wansbeck Rd right down to Dene View on both sides. As you plan denotes you are only going half way down which wont solve the problem, as the parked vehicles at the bottom half along side our garage & gardens, restricts the traffic turning left and right from Dene View. There can be at least 7 vehicles parked alongside at any one time every day. So will you please give this your utmost attention.
NE63 8HZ	1		There used to be a gate which rolled across the opening and was a good barrier for the children's safety. And like most things, instead of repairing it when a waggon broke it, they just removed the lot - hence three children knocked down, 2 boys and 1 girl. I dont know what good signs will do as drivers dont seem to be able to read or know their numbers, the 20 limit. Also no one enforces any of the by laws for very long.
NE63 8JB	1		I am writing in reply to your letter regarding the restrictions in parking on Wansbeck Road / Dene View in Ashington. If you did go ahead with this you will only move the problem into the back lanes of the two streets. At the moment we who live in Wansbeck Road have plenty of problems with people parking in our back lane. We have a narrow back lane and the people who park here now have no consideration about where they park. Personally myself and my husband have been shouted at, sworn at and even told where to go in no uncertain terms and that is just because we want our car out of the garage or want to park at our own door. There is a large broad telegraph pole which sticks out in the lane and they park opposite that and no other vehicle can get passed. I once could not get out of my back gate for a car which was parked so close to the gate and another time if I had been two seconds later in going out of my gate I could have been knocked down or even killed and all because of a car driving with two wheels on the pavement to park outside my door needless to say I got quite a shock. Our pavement is only 34 inches wide including the kerb stone. I know this is twice a day but there are more and more cars parking down our lane. When the school is closed for holidays there are no problems at all. Now you see the extent of the problems we have so I think going ahead with your plans would only be a waste of our money and cause further problems. I think you need to rethink your proposals. A possible solution could be residents only parking in the back lanes.
NE63 8HZ	1		We oppose these parking restrictions only because it will cause parking problems in other nearby areas - back lanes of wansbeck road, dene view morven terrance. The parents cars do cause a problem between 8.30-9.30 and 2.45 and 3.15 however the real problem we have as residents are the school staff cars. Some days there are as many as 10 cars parked in front of residents houses on our block. Some coming as early as 7am and not leaving until after 5pm. This is very frustrating when you cant get parked at your own door more so if you are carrying shopping. we have asked the teachers to use the car park at the sports centre but this has been ignored. Perhaps you could consider 'residential parking' in front of the school?

NE63 8HZ	1		<p>As a resident I have not requested or been asked about these proposals. I do hope you take the time to read this as I have in the past wrote to County Council and the Headmaster at wansbeck first school. The problem with the parking is infact the teachers at wansbect school. Outside of wansbeck road alone up to 7 teachers park their cars on a daily basis, passing an empty school car park which is provided for them. They park from as early as 7.15am and are often there till 17.00. This is having a massive impact on the residents as we are forced to at times park on the other side of the road untill a spot is available. The headmaster ignored my letter but he also parks outside the residents houses, i feel its the residents that cause some of the problem as we are forced to park in and around our properties when the teachers are parked there. Parents also park up from as early as 2pm to collect their children. So unless a residents parking scheme is introduced, i dont think this problem will ever resolve itself.</p>
NE63 8JB	1		<p>My main concern is that this will force parents of the children at wansbeck school to use. The back lanes even more than they do already to park their cars. Also as reported in the journal Bothal school may be closing next year resulting in more children at wansbeck school. (I was hit be a parents car a few years ago when waiting to get into the drivers seat of my own car, i now have been left with permanant back problems). At the moment parking restictions already in place are largely ignored unless there is a police presence, getting your car out of you own garage has to be within school hours, and parents regularly use our drives to car ports to turn their cars around. residents parking only would be the obvious answer and i know my neighbours would gladly support this even is there was a cast involved. If a face to face meeting is proposed I would be more than happy to attend.</p>
NE63 8JB	1		<p>Although we agree that traffic calming and restricted parking needs to be addressed we feel that double yellow lines may accerbate the situation. The proposal will force the cars to park in the back lanes which is already a problem for the residents. Some of the Wansbeck road residents have been verbally abused when complaining to people parking outside their properties when blocking access to garages and yards. For the above reasons we feel that further thought needs to be put into these proposals along with discussions with residents who have to endure the traffic on a daily basis. We would support the idea of parking permits for peace of mind when for example, being able to park at our door. However we dont agree that we have to pay out for other people's ignorance.</p>
	1		<p>Thank you for your letter dated 7th May 2014 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.</p> <p>Thank you for your letter dated 7th May 2014 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.</p>
NE63 8JB	1		<p>But the problem of the parking is the back lane will be made worse than it is at the minute.</p>
25	6	0	