



Northumberland County Council

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES: BARRY ROWLAND**

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**PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS  
ELVASTON ROAD, HEXHAM**

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**Purpose of Report**

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding proposed parking restrictions on Elvaston Road, Hexham, (see attached consultation plan in appendix A).

**Recommendations**

**It is recommended that:**

- 1) A 'No Waiting 8am to 6pm' restriction is provided on Elvaston Road.

**Key Issues**

- 1) Councillor Homer is addressing parking and traffic issues in the area.
- 2) Public parking occurs on this section of Elvaston Road.
- 3) Parked cars force traffic into the middle of the road, resulting in conflicts with oncoming vehicles which cannot be easily seen due to a bend in the road which obstructs forward visibility.

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Report Author

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## **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. Officers are working with Councillor Homer to address parking and traffic issues in this part of Hexham.
2. Despite the introduction of free parking, all day parking by town centre employees still occurs on Elvaston Road.
3. This parking causes traffic to move out into the middle of the road.
4. This section of Elvaston Road includes a bend which restricts forward visibility.
5. The end result is that traffic often meets 'head-on' with little warning.
6. In addition, traffic that has been forced into the middle of the road by parked cars cannot be seen by drivers exiting Elvaston Park Road and private driveways. This has led to a number of 'near misses'.
7. Parking also occurs at the junctions of adjoining cul-de-sacs which also affects visibility.
8. A site meeting was held with local residents and Councillor Homer on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014.
9. At that meeting it was agreed that a 'No Waiting 8am to 6pm' restriction (single yellow lines) would be appropriate as it would prevent parking by town centre employees during the day but enable residents and visitors to park outside those times.

## **Consultation**

10. The proposal was the subject of a consultation which concluded on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The consultation letter is attached as Appendix B.
11. The consultation exercise involved the delivery of a consultation letter together with a plan showing details of the scheme to residents, statutory consultees; County Councillor Homer, Hexham Town Council; road user organisations; and other interested parties. 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. 17 responses were returned. 15 were in favour of the proposal (88%), 2 against (12%). A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix C.
13. Many of those who responded in favour were strongly in support of the proposal.
14. Some respondents made reference to 4 hour parking bays further down Elvaston Road, stating they are rarely used. It was suggested the Council could consider removing these bays, however they are also part of an existing residents permit parking scheme. Some further investigation will be undertaken and the issue will be discussed with Councillor Homer separately.
15. One statutory consultee responded. The North East Ambulance Service recognised and appreciated the need for the scheme and supported the proposals.
16. Hexham Town Council stated that they had no objections to the proposal.

## **Conclusion**

17. It is recommended that, in view of the results of the consultation exercise, the No Waiting 8am to 6pm restriction is provided.

## **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 East

## DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Executive Member or Officer(s):**

Barry Rowland: Executive Director of Local Services

**Subject:**

**PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS  
ELVASTON ROAD, HEXHAM**

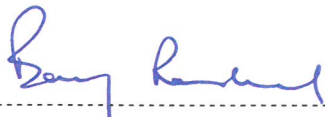
**Consultation**

17 Responses  
15 For  
2 Against  
0 Neither

**Decision Taken:**

1) A 'No Waiting 8am to 6pm restriction is provided on Elvaston Road, Hexham.

Signature of Executive Director



**Date**

30/03/15

## Appendix A – Consultation Plan



## Appendix B – Consultation Letter

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF  
• Web: [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

The Occupier

Our Ref: HE141320  
Your Ref:  
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Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Proposed Amendments to Parking Restrictions – Elvaston Road - Hexham**

Concerns have been raised by residents regarding visibility for vehicles exiting Elvaston Park Road and nearby driveways due to the curve of Elvaston Road. In addition, parked cars in this area can cause oncoming traffic to be in the centre of Elvaston Road which can lead to conflict with joining traffic. With this in mind, I am writing to you to find out your views on providing a 'No Waiting 8am to 6pm' parking restriction in Elvaston Road, at and near the junction with Elvaston Park Road, as shown on the enclosed plan.

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 to improve the amenities of the area.

A free post response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. I would welcome a reply by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December 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



Richard McKenzie  
Senior Programmes Officer

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
1			<p>Thank you for your correspondence dated 17th November 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. I do appreciate however the need for restrictions to improve road safety.</p> <p>I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.</p>
1			The current parking arrangements makes for potentially dangerous driving both on the curve of Elvaston Road and when exiting or entering Elvaston Park Road. I strongly agree with the proposal to introduce waiting restrictions.
1			Parking opposite the junction to our road has long been a concern. Since bays further down the road were changed long term parking just moved further up. On several occasions I have nearly had the front of my car backed as cars came speeding up the road in the middle of the road. They need to be in the middle of the road to avoid the cars parked on the bend opposite. It is very dangerous and I'm very surprised there have not been more accidents... It is only a matter of time. I strongly agree with her proposals being made as does my husband who has also experienced similar.
1			I am so pleased that you are addressing this problem. I have narrowly avoided a collision with cars at least three times recently. Most cars travel either up the middle or are on the wrong side of the road due to cars being parked opposite Elvaston Park Road. Many of them are travelling at speed and it is only a matter of time before a serious collision occurs possibly resulting in more than damage to one or more vehicles. I am very grateful to the residents who reported this problem as I myself have been considering it. I personally would even go so far as to consider double yellow lines in the proposed areas as cars travel in and out of our road and up and down Elvaston road at all times of the day and night.
1			Brilliant. The sooner the better. Thank you. It is amazing that we have not yet had a nasty accident here.
1			I have a better idea. The problem only arises because of cars parking on the E side of Elvaston Road as highlighted. The cars are only parked there because of the existence of unnecessary and unwanted residents parking bays further down the street. So get rid of the parking bays. Eliminate the incontinence, expense and bureaucracy, and the road becomes safer. Everybody wins.
1			We have been concerned about the dangers for a while - especially if it were icy and cars were coming up the middle of the road and we were unable to stop.
1			Glad that eventually some admin is being taken to outcome this serious road layout. We did write to Paul McKenna in September 2010 having narrowly escaped a collision with another car coming up Elvaston Road as we turned right out of Elvaston Park Road. The salutation you are now proposing in on our own suggesting them.
1			<p>Having lived in Elvaston Park Road for many years we totally agree with the proposed amendments. We would even suggest that double yellow lines are needed as some traffic travelling to the North often cut the corner and make the exit from EP Road a great danger. We know there was a fatal accident there in the past.</p> <p>We sincerely hope that parking issues on Elvaston Rd are just not moved onto Elvaston Park Rd, as many of the residents no longer use their drives for parking.</p> <p>We also have a very high percentage of Learner drivers using Elvaston Park Road for 3 point turns, reverse parking etc, which has led to a serious and rapid deterioration of the road surface.</p> <p>Another possible suggestion for future road safety and accident prevention would be to review the two parking bays on the East side at the very bottom of Elvaston Road (near Haining Croft). It is a very dangerous and narrow turn, especially when large lorries &amp; vans are speeding down the hill.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
1			I have complained on several occasions to the parking wardens about this issue. It is impossible to see when coming out of Elvaston Park Road onto Elvaston Park and I have several 'near misses'; as a result. Car travel far too fast up Elvaston Road and use it as a cut through to join the Slaley Road. I fully support the proposal! I have spoken to the manager of new west bunch who always parks at the top of Elvaston Road and causes a danger to other road users - people can now push for free in the wentwosh so there is no need to park here!
1			this is a very dangerous section of road when cars are parked in this short section as traffic coming up the hill is forced onto the wrong side of the road and traffic exiting from elvaston park road can meet with them head on as they are starting to cross the junction before they can see down the hill. It also blocks line of sight for cars exiting from the two cul de sacs above and below the section.
1			There is certainly a problem here as I was driving south up Elvaston Road and was almost taken out by a van coming out of Elvaston Park Road without looking or dropping its speed. I suspect parking restrictions might not be popular with local residents. How about a STOP sign with the appropriate road markings from the Elvaston Park Road side. I also thought it was already illegal to park at a junction but perhaps my Highway Code knowledge is out of date.
1			<p>There is a problem with parking on this bend. However</p> <p>This problem started when parking restrictions were introduced further down Elvaston road.</p> <p>The 4 hr parking restrictions have pushed cars wanting to park all day further up Elvaston onto the bend.</p> <p>If parking restrictions were introduced here then cars would be pushed into the cul-de-sacs and higher up Elvaston road.</p> <p>The 4 hr restriction bays are rarely full. Infact they are rarely used. There has only been an issue for parking outside the terraced part of Elvaston rd and this is solved by permit parking down the bottom end of Elvaston.</p> <p>I believe removing the 4 hr bays on Elvaston will solve the problem on the bend.</p> <p>Introducing more restriction will just push the problem to other places.</p> <p>The people who park all day will just get fitter, walking further into town.</p>
1			Cars are parked on a regular basis on Elvaston Road between Linton and Hipwood. Driving out onto Elvaston road from the Linton exit sometimes involves being in the middle of the road before it is possible to see traffic coming from the south. I am in complete agreement with making the marked areas 'No Waiting' 8am to 6pm. However I anticipate that the various cul-de-sacs will become regular parking places for those who currently park on the marked area of Elvaston road, that will create a new problem of congestion.
1			I beg to advise you the Town Council has no objections to the proposed amendment to the parking restrictions on Elvaston Road.
15	2	0	